

The Lampstand of the Lord

Exodus 25:31-40

The KJV calls this Lampstand a "candlestick", but there were no candles upon it. The proper translation of the Hebrew *menorah* is lampstand or "lightbearer". This Golden Lampstand stood within the Holy Place opposite of the Table of Showbread. It was an article of pure gold, beaten by craftsman rather than molded. It contained seven lamps, with decorations under each lamp of a bowl like an almond, a "knop" (possibly an almond budding), and a flower. This Lampstand weighed a talent (120 pounds) and was the only light the priests had within the Holy Place.

The Lampstand represents Jesus Christ who said, *"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world"* (John 9:5). Christ is said to have *"the seven spirits of God"* (Revelation 3:1). When Jesus went to heaven He said, *"The Comforter is come, whom I will send . . ."* (John 15:26). Exodus 25:31 uses the personal pronoun *"his"* not *"it"*. This lesson is designed to show how the Lampstand represents the Spirit of God in His work and ministry in the lives of Jesus followers.

I. His Position . . . *"the Holy Place."*

(A). The Lampstand was seen by the priests only.

"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 9:9).

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, . . ." (Galatians 5:22).

The gift of the Spirit of God within is reserved for those whom the Father has chosen.

(B). The Lampstand was the only article beaten.

It is only through the *suffering* of Christ on the cross that man has the privilege of receiving the Spirit of God within. *"Ye are the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit . . ."*

(C). The Lampstand was extremely precious.

*120 pounds of solid gold *The only light within *Nothing else was done without it

II. His Purpose . . . *"to give life and light"*

(A). To give life . . . (Exodus 25:31-32)

The Lampstand had "seven" lamps with each having decorations (almond, bud, flower).

This is very similar to the story of Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17:8).

Three stages of life are "bud, flower, fruit." The Holy Spirit produces it all! **(Phil.1:6)**

(B). To give light . . . (Exodus 25:37)

(1). On the Savior . . .

"He shall glorify me . . . and shall show it unto you" (John 16:14).

"For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light" (Psalm 36:9).

(2). On the Scriptures . . . *"the lampstand was over against the table"* (Ex. 40:24).

"Aaron and his sons did it" (Lev. 24:8,9). The Spirit illuminates the Word

(3). On our supplications . . . *"when the lamps are lit, he shall burn incense"* (Ex.30:7).

"We know not what we should pray, but the Spirit makes intercession" (Rom. 8:26).

(4). To the saints . . . *"He is our spirit of wisdom and understanding"* (Isaiah 11:1,2).

III. His Power . . . *"a symbol of God's presence"*

The Lampstand is mentioned twice outside of the Pentateuch; both times the lights are out.

(A). I Samuel 3:3 when God judges Israel for the sins of Hophni and Phineas.

(B). Daniel 5:5 when God judged Belshazzar for his profane actions with the lampstand.