

The Golden Lampstand

July 19, 2020



Ex 25:31-40 Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand and its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. 32 Six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side. 33 Three cups shall be shaped like almond blossoms in the one branch, a bulb and a flower, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms in the other branch, a bulb and a flower—so for six branches going out from the lampstand; 34 and in the lampstand four cups shaped like almond blossoms, its bulbs and its flowers. 35 A bulb shall be under the first pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb under the second pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb under the third pair of branches coming out of it, for the six branches coming out of the lampstand. 36 Their bulbs and their branches shall be of one piece with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold. 37 “Then you shall make its lamps seven in number; and they shall mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it. 38 Its snuffers and their trays shall be of pure gold. 39 It shall be made from a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. 40 See that you make them after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

Design of the Menorah meaning “lightbearer” or “lampstand”

No dimensions are given for the lampstand.

The lampstand was highly ornamented, it was handmade of one piece of gold that was beaten into its shape.

There was a central shaft with three branches on a side, making seven branches in all.

Each branch was like a limb of an almond tree, having three bulbs and a flower on each branch.

On top of each branch was an open almond blossom in which the lamps filled with oil were placed.

The golden lampstand speaks of Jesus

Jesus is the Branch of the LORD

Isa 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Isa 4:2 In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious;

Isa 42:6 I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,
(Isa 49:6; 51:4-5; 60:1-3; Lk 2:32; Ac 13:47; 26:23; 1Pt 2:9)

Mt 4:16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

Jesus is the light of the world

Jn 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (Jn 1:4-5; 8:12; 12:35-36, 46)

The lampstand was the only source of light in the holy place. Its primary purpose was to give light and it was never to be put out, to stop shining.

Jesus is the light of life

Jn 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Jesus is the light true Light

Jn 1:9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

He makes us to also be a light to the world

Mt 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden (Mt 5:16; Eph 5:8, 14; Phil 2:15; 1Pt 2:9; 1Jn 1:7)

It was made of beaten gold – a picture of the sufferings of Christ Jesus.

It was ornamented with almonds – a picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The almond blossoms remind us of Aaron's rod that budded. When Aaron's priestly office was challenged, the budding of his almond rod established his right to the priesthood. The dead almond rod (branch) was made to live again and bear fruit (Num 17:1-11).

Num 17:8 ... the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.

The oil - for the sanctuary light was made from beaten olives, bruised in a mortar.

Messiah (literally means, anointed), His bruising preceded the pouring out of His Spirit on us.

The olives were sometimes "trodden" (Mic 6:15), or "pressed" in a "press," making the fats overflow (Joel 2:24; 3:13; Hag 2:16).

Oil indicates gladness - Isa 61:3 ... The oil of gladness instead of mourning, (Ps 45:7)
The absence of oil indicates sorrow and humiliation (Isa 1:6; Joel 2:19)

The golden lampstand also speaks of the Holy Spirit

Jn 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Jn 14:16-20 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

Oil is a widely understood symbol of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. . . . (Luke 4:18)

"The Spirit of the Lord" and the oil of anointing are directly linked. The oil of anointing stands as a physical representation of Jesus being given the Spirit to perform these functions for God in His service to man.

Acts 10:38 reveals another aspect of this symbolism: ". . . how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Again, reference is made to anointing—an act normally done with oil—with the Holy Spirit, and Peter adds "with power," a characteristic not included in Luke 4:18.

Olive Oil = Anointing

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me ... (Lk 4:18)

Jn 1:41 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ).

Christians are also anointed

2Cor 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, 22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

1Jn 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

1Jn 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

The seven branches

Isa 11:1-2 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Central shaft = Spirit of the LORD; with 3 branches on each side = 1) spirit of wisdom and understanding; 2) spirit of counsel and strength; 3) spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD

Nine bulbs and flowers on each side (three on each branch)

9 fruit of the Spirit = Gal 5:22-23 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;

9 fruit of the Spirit = 1Cor 12:7-10

- 1) various kinds of tongues; 2) the interpretation of tongues; 3) prophecy;
- 4) the word of wisdom; 5) the word of knowledge; 6) the distinguishing of spirits;
- 7) the gift of faith; 8) gifts of healing; 9) the effecting of miracles

The Lampstand and judgement

Only twice is the Lampstand referred to after the Pentateuch.

First - Message given to young Samuel of judgement on the house of Eli. (1Sam 3)

1Sam 3:3 and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was,

1Sam 3:11 The LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle."

Second – Message given to Daniel of judgement on King Belshazzar and Babylon (Dan 5).

King Belshazzar has a party and they drink from the vessels from the Temple of Jerusalem.

Dan 5:5 Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing. - Message of judgement on the Babylonians.

Judgement to all without Christ

Jn 3:16-21 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Parable of the ten virgins

Mt 25:1-13 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."