

The Golden Lampstand

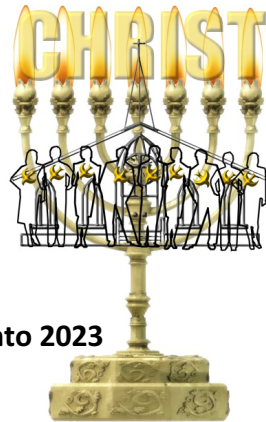
Jesus Christ,

The LIGHT of the World

Exodus 25:31-40; Exodus 37:17-24;

Leviticus 24:2, 4

John 15:1-11; 1 John 1:5-8



30 July 2023

Pursuing our Goals - Pressing Forward into 2023

- Examining Ourselves
- Catechism Meditation and Scripture Memorization

Eternal Purpose

What We Have Learnt So Far

Common Factors Throughout

- ① Sacrifice is necessary for access to God.
- ② The two natures of Christ.
- ③ A suffering mediator is necessary.
- ④ A close connection between Christ and His people.
- ⑤ The sovereignty of God and human responsibility.
- ⑥ Seriousness: LIFE or DEATH.

General specifications

- One of the three pieces of furniture which were in the Holy Place.
- Its size - no dimensions given.
 - Like the laver, the Bible gives no dimensions for its size.
- Its material - pure gold, weighing one "talent" (v. 39).
 - and all its various parts were to be hammered out of one solid lump of gold.
 - The lampstand and all its accessories, such as tongs and trays, were to be made of pure gold.
- Its parts - a base, a centre stem, and three stems or branches on each side, all beaten out of one piece.
 - The design of the golden lampstand was formed around a central trunk with three branches on each side, thus equalling seven branches in all.

- Its ornamentation - It looked like a tree. The stems were ornamented with buds, blossoms, and almonds, likened to fruits.
- Its use - to give light in the Holy Place, day and night.

Its Position

- The lampstand stood on the south side of the Holy Place, as you entered it was to the left (Exodus 40:24).

Its Purpose

- With no windows or other means to allow natural light, the only illumination in the Holy Place came from the Golden Lampstand.
MEDITATE!

The Lampstand Is a Picture of CHRIST

- The pure gold speaks of Christ's heavenly work.
- God is light (source), and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). God is the source (Gen 1:3; Psalms 104:1-2).
- Christ is the Light of the World (John 8:12; Malachi 4:2; Psalm 27:1; Revelation 21:23).
- Jesus Christ is the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2; Luke 1:78).
- Only in His light can we see light (Psalm 36:9).
- Jesus came into darkness as the true light (John 1:1-9). What fellowship does light have with darkness? (2 Cor 6:14).
- For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed (John 3:20).
- We are to walk in the light as He is in the light. Abiding in Him so as to shed this light to others. He lives in us, and we in Him. We are in union with Him (1 John 1:6-7).
- All believers are "children of the light," which indicates likeness to our heavenly Father. God brought us out of the world's darkness and into HIS marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9).
- Jesus compared his followers to Light (Matthew 5:14-16).
- Christ is the Light to His people (2 Cor 4:6), in His people (Eph 1:18; 5:13, 14), and through His people (Matt 5:14-16).
- Why don't people come to fellowship? Men loved darkness rather than light (John 3:19-21). We cannot fellowship while in darkness since light exposes our wicked deeds.
- What does light do to a believer? All things that are exposed are made manifest by the light (Ephesians 5:13).

The Lampstand Is a Picture of the WORD of God

- The Word is the Light of God (Psalm 19:8; Proverbs 6:23; Psalm 43:3; 2 Peter 2:19). In the Bible, light has always been a symbol of holiness and goodness while in contrast, darkness has been associated with evil and sin.
- Your Word is a lamp to my feet; and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).
- The Lampstand was "hidden" from the outside world, so are the glories of Christ hidden to the "natural man." (1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6). God's Word is to be hidden in our hearts so that we don't sin against Him (Psalm 119:11).
- The light of God's word allows us to see our way through life on earth (Proverbs 6:23).
- Only God's Word is a reliable lamp shining in a dark place - the world (2 Peter 1:19).
- God's Word is truth. The light is the truth (John 17:17).
- God's Word is likened to a mirror (James 1:22-25).
- The unfolding of God's words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple (Psalms 119:130).
- God's word will shed light on the path ahead so we can stay right with God, or so we can get back on track if we ever veer off (2 Tim 3:16).

The Lampstand Is a Picture of the CHURCH

- Christ and His Church are one (Ephesians 5:30; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 1 Corinthians 6:15).
- As the lampstand is one unified piece, so Christ and His Church are perfectly united. Christ and the Father are one (Eph 4:3-6; John 17).
- The one piece of gold speaks of His perfect unity with God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).
- The seven branches made of one piece supported the lamps. These lamps are described in the singular (Ex 27:20; Lev 24:2; John 17).
- Christ is the centre stem (branch), and His Church is the side branches (John 15:1-7).
- As the branch cannot bear fruit unless by abiding in the vine, we must abide with Christ to bear fruits in our lives (John 15:4-5).
- Fruit bearing is the evidence of abiding in Christ. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit (John 15:4-5).
- The number seven speaks of completeness and perfection (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18).
- Man is only complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10; John 15:5).

- The source of light was the olive oil brought by the rulers (Exodus 35:14, 27, 28).
- The oil for the lamps is a picture of the Holy Spirit, sent by God to empower believers (Romans 8:9). Christ walked in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 1:32-33; 3:34; 6:63; Psalm 45:7; Zechariah 4:6).
- The lamps were to burn continually (Leviticus 24:1-4).
- Disciples are to be shining lights (Philippians 2:15).
- Disciples are to walk as children of light (Eph 5:8; 1; Thess 5:4-5).
- Disciples are the light of the world (Matthew 4:14-16)

Proper Responses

- The only way to have fellowship with God is through Christ, abiding in (living) the Word of God (1 Tim 2:5; Deut 18:18-19; John 15).
- The only light for our walk in this world is the Word of God (Psalms 119:105).
- We have been set apart to shine in this dark world we live in (1 John 2:3-6).
- We are called to bear fruits for God in this world (John 15:7).
- Fellowship in the Light enables us to fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7-9).
- We are to serve Christ through serving Christ's body - Church (Romans 12:1-8; 2 Cor 4:5).
- We are to live on every word that comes from the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; John 8:31)
- As we read and meditate on the word of God in our life, it will keep us from stumbling in the dark thus walking in the light.

Are we walking in His LIGHT?