

The Lampstand

"I am the Light of the world"



Exod 25:31-37 And thou shalt make a **candlestick of pure gold**: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side: **Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower**: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick. Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold. And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that **they may give light over against it**.

John 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

The lampstand was made to look like a tree. It had members that demonstrated the 3 stages of life: 1) buds - potential 2) flowers - beauty 3) almonds - fruit

All 3 were present at the same time. The lampstand and members all pointed to the Lord. It was a "vehicle of light" of God, "I am the light of the world." **The lampstand was a method of self-revelation (making God known to man). This is the purpose of "the word" in John 1:1.**

The lampstand was solid gold, not gold "plated". The laver was wood and copper, The ark was wood and gold. They had 2 natures/materials due to the 2 natures of our Lord: humanity - to die (God can not die) = High Priest-know man's infirmities God - divine to endure fires of Calvary = Priest forever

The ark pictures the Lord Jesus' human and divine natures. The laver that of the Holy Spirit baptizing the regenerated. The pure gold lampstand = the deity of the Lord Jesus = the word of God because the word *was God!*

The word of God (= the Lord Jesus) was the agent of creation (Jn 1:1). Where and what was the source to create all these things?

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

the Lord Jesus Christ is the source of all life. Parents are a channel of physical life. What a contrast between being a channel of physical life and the *source of all life*. The Lord said unto the Pharisees that you search the scriptures as if was a source of life, but it is not! **"I AM the way, the truth and the life."**

John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

the Lord Jesus is not a means or a channel, but the source of all life.

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

This is seen also in *John 11*, "Lazurus, come forth..." and he rose and came from the tomb. = "life giver" and "that life was the light of man." What allows life to make sense and to have knowledge of life and its source? **Without God as its source, life has no meaning.** It becomes vain, futile and ultimately has no point.

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, **they glorified him not as God**, neither were thankful; **but became vain** in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

In *John 15* we see the life lived out and flowing through the branches of the vine. The trunk of the vine is symbolized by the lampstand's central shaft. It was meant to look like a tree trunk that He may bring forth fruit by the life of God flowing through the branches.

How is this possible? Where does it begin? Creatures who have physical life may now **receive a higher life, that as a child of God.**

The buds on the lampstand take the mind back to Aaron's rod that budded, a picture of Christ in resurrection life. Christ is the source and vehicle God uses to provide the life of God to His own. The gold symbolizes the divine glory involved.

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The lampstand represents the vehicle of light and demonstrates the self-revelation of God. The 7 lamps at the end of the branches burned with oil continuously in the tabernacle. The following passage reveals a visionary lampstand similar to the one in the tabernacle.

ZECH 4:1-6 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, **This is the word of the LORD** unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

The secret of success revealed in Zech 4:6 = "by my spirit, saith the LORD..." The Holy Spirit represents the oil in the lamp. The lampstand (symbol of testimony) is maintained by the HOLY SPIRIT of God. Where do we see this fulfilled in the NT?

John 15:1-4 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

This is the key to testimony and witness. The Holy Spirit came to testify of God. What was the subject of the witness?

Num 8:1-2 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron, and say unto him, When thou lightest the lamps, the seven **lamps shall give light over against the candlestick.** (= showed glory of lampstand)

The Holy Spirit witnesses to Christ and **convicts the world of sin because they did not believe in Christ!** The Holy Spirit is the primary witness to turn our eyes to Christ and show us the wealth of Him. His witness is to turn us to the source of life!

We must have the HOLY SPIRIT "filling the lamp for fuel" to know Him. In the holy place, all 7 lamps were needed, not just one. Every believer is a lamp with the HOLY SPIRIT and all are needed to make God known. We receive the HOLY SPIRIT by being "justified by faith":

Our gracious High Priest must come often and "trim our wick" to restore the flame and radiance of His light. It is a filthy, awful job to do. The picture of our Lord's intercession for us if given by the incense going up from the altar to God for us as a pleasing fragrance.