

The Golden Lampstand

Exodus 25:31-40

31 "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece. 32 And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. 33 Three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower--and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. 34 On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower. 35 And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand. 36 Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold. 37 You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it. 38 And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold. 39 It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. 40 And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

There is only one more piece of furniture left in the tabernacle after the golden lampstand, the altar of incense. That article comes much later in the text.

This morning we come to what must have been one of the most beautiful articles in the tabernacle. Not only because of its makeup but also because of the work that was involved in making it.

There we no windows built into the Tabernacle and the tent multiple coverings. Or as one person said there was no natural light in the tabernacle but only the light from the lampstand.

I. Light in the scripture.

A. Dealing with the subject of light is very significant in the Scriptures and often means much more than physical light.

1. Physical light is something that even children very early begin to understand.
2. They are often naturally afraid of the dark.
3. There is a sense that evil lurks in the darkness.
4. I have yet to hear a child talk like there might be something good or beautiful to be found in the dark.

B. Darkness is spoken of as having an evil element about it.

1. Matthew 6:22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you

is darkness, how great is that darkness!

2. John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."
3. Acts 26:18 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

C. Light is often spoken of as a spiritual understanding that people are given.

1. Isaiah 9:2 (NKJV) 2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.
2. Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV) 6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' "
3. Matthew 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."
4. Luke 1:79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."
5. Luke 2:32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

D. God is often spoken of as light itself.

1. Psalm 27:1 (NKJV) 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?
2. 1John 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
3. The deeper meaning of the lampstand is that God himself is the light; there is no darkness where God is. Preaching the Word - Preaching the Word – Exodus: Saved for God's Glory.
4. Particularly Jesus is spoken of as the light.
 - a. John 1:4-9 (NKJV) 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of

men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

- b. John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
- c. John 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
- d. John 11:9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 "But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."
- e. John 12:35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.
- f. John 12:46 "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

II. The purpose of the Lampstand

- A. It was to give light to the place where God and met together.
 - 1. The bread of fellowship could never be found or eaten without the light.
 - 2. Without the light of Jesus we would never find God.
 - 3. No one comes to the Son unless the Father who sent Him draws them.
- B. Jesus is the light that enables sinners to come and meet with a holy God.
- C. Just as the lampstand was the only legitimate light in the tabernacle so Jesus is the only legitimate light to show man their sin and to dispel the evil darkness of our lives.

In the words of one commentator, it served as "a welcome sign that someone is home."
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Psalm 43:3 (NKJV) 3 Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.

Mt 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Luke 8:16 "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.

Luke 11:33 "No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light.

Luke 16:8 "So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

Ac 9:3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

Ac 13:47 "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

Ac 26:23 "that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

2Co 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2Co 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

1Th 5:5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

1Ti 6:16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or

can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1John1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1John2:9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

1John2:10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.