

The Menorah



I believe that the Lord wants to bring understanding on a particular article or piece of furniture used in the OT Temples and the Tabernacle of Moses. When Jesus died on the Cross all of the furniture used in the Temple had become obsolete, they were merely shadows. We now have the reality and the substance. But it is important to understand and highlight the significance of this particular item. The Lord told me to highlight the significance of the Menorah and in particular the Seven Spirits of God.

Exodus 25:31-36

^{25:31} "Make a lampstand of pure gold and hammer it out, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms shall be of one piece with it. ³² Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand--three on one side and three on the other. ³³ Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand. ³⁴ And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. ³⁵ One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair--six branches in all. ³⁶ The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold.

One of the requirements of the law was to keep the lamps perpetually burning.

Exodus 27:20-21

^{27:20} "Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light **so that the lamps may be kept burning.** ²¹ In the Tent of Meeting, outside the curtain that is in front of the Testimony, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the LORD from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come.

For thousands of years the Jews kept the light burning as a symbol of who they were, who their God was and who and what they were or represented to the world.

- The menorah was placed in the Holy place just before the Holy of Holies.
- It was the job of the priests to tend to the lamps constantly.
- The Jewish Priests were required to keep the oil flowing to the lamps. They would trim the wicks so they keep the lamp burnt bright, if not it would just smoke and die out.

Jewish Meaning of the Menorah:

- One of the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith is the menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum used in the Temple.
- The kohanim attended to the menorah in the Sanctuary every evening and cleaned it out every morning, replacing the wicks and putting fresh olive oil into the cups.
- It has been said that the menorah is a symbol of the nation of Israel and our mission to be "*a light unto the nations.*" (Isaiah 42:6).
- Israel was to accomplish its mission by setting an example, not by using force, Zechariah 4:1-6 - "*Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit.*"

"It is a reflection of the way that the soul finds its expression in this world. The menorah reflects the fire of the soul and its unceasing desire to rise to the source. The seven branches represent the seven channels of spiritual self-expression."- Unknown Jewish Rabbi

In other words the Jews believed that its purpose was to be a reflection of their **Identity** as a nation and **holiness** before the nations, Israel was set apart for God to be God's light among the nations. It was also to express the "spirit of the law".

NT Covenant meaning - Reality

The Menorah was made up of 5 aspects/distinctive features:

- Gold
- Light
- Oil
- Seven Branches
- Almond Blossoms

1. Gold

Gold represents the most precious metal. It is the most pure of metals. It becomes purer as it is refined in fire.

- God covered many of the Tabernacle items in Gold, signifying God's ability to make us pure. It hides man's efforts.
- We are his precious in His sight.
- It speaks of God's perfection and His perfect standards to make us righteous and Holy.
- Gold is also God's glory and we are covered in his glory.

2. Light – Truth, we are to walk in the Light of God.

The light in the Tabernacle was a powerful symbol of God's light and holiness in our dark and sinful world.

- God's light to the nations. Jewish tradition holds that it reminds the people of Israel that they are also called to be his "*Light to the nations*" as God prescribed in Isaiah 42:6. Gently spreading light without force - "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD*", in Zechariah 4:6.
- We are called to be His representatives of His glory, truth, and light into the world. Jesus said in Matthew 5: "*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*" **The light is a witness** to and of God.
- Jesus standing in the temple (near the Menorah), declared "***I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.***" John 8:12
- Each Branch took its light from the centre piece. Jesus is our centre piece and we gain light from him, as we the branches look to him, and behold him. We see this when Jesus said He is our source or everything "***Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.***" **John 15:4**

3. Oil – The Anointing, the empowering of God

The oil represents the anointing or the power of the Holy Spirit. Without the oil the lamps would not burn or give off light.

- We have the anointing of the Holy Spirit, he is the one who empowers us to be the light and reflection of God's love and power in the world.

Zechariah 4:1-14

4:1 Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep. 2 He asked me, "What do you see?"

I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. 3 Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."

4:4 I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"

4:5 He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied.

4:6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

- We see that there is a flow from the olive trees to the lamps.
- It is the supply of heaven to accomplish what we have been called to – His Grace.
- It is God's power, and not our strength or our efforts.
- We cut off the supply when we turn to our efforts – *not by our might*.

4. Seven Branches

- Seven is the number of God - number of completion.
- There are **six branches** attached to the main branch, they represent No of Man or humanity.
- The Six branches (Man) + Centre piece = Perfection in Christ.
- It was made of one solid piece of Gold – God's perfect standard.
- Represent the presence of God Rev 4:5
- In Revelation 1: 12,13, 20 we also see the lamp stand representing the Spirit's presence in the churches. There are seven churches listed, but all are the one bride of Jesus.
- Symbolic of the Tree of Life – Eternal life in Jesus.
- Jesus said "I am the true vine, you are the branches" in John 15. He is the tree, and only in him can we live spiritually and produce fruit.

5. Almond Blossom

You may ask why almond blossoms on the menorah? Everything in the OT was significant with God, and was symbolic of what we have in Christ. All the articles in the Ark of the Covenant represented man's futility in obeying or submitting to God goodness.

- Aaron's priestly authority was questioned, his staff budded, bloomed and produced fruit overnight as validation from God. This spoke of Man's rebellion of God's authority.

- Jeremiah almond branch in a vision (Jer 1:11). Hebrew word for 'almond' is also root of the word to be '**diligent and hard-working**'. The tree blooms and produces fruit before any other tree - in the middle of winter. It is a metaphor for haste and determined work. God assures Jeremiah that he is diligently watching over his word to fulfil it, in Jeremiah 1:12: *The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."*
- Almond blossoms are a symbol of God's determination to carry out his plans.

In essence the Menorah, which is the fulfilment in Christ, speaks of:

- God's light, truth, power, might and determination to accomplish His great salvation, first to the Jews then to the gentiles.
- It is symbolic of Christ's Spirit in us to give us identity and in a fallen world.
- It is Christ's anointing on us to accomplish his plans and purpose through his Church.

Rev 1:19-20 the seven lamp stands are the seven churches.

Zechariah 4:8-14 - these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil.

End

The Menorah represents who we are in Christ and all that we can be in him. We are a reflection of Christ in us. It is the Holy Spirit in us, the eternal flame of God that gives us identity and we are to provide light and hope to the world. We are the light of the world reflecting the glory and nature of God, empowered and anointed to accomplish his (determined) will on the earth. It is the message of Grace that God is determined to spread throughout the earth and he is overseeing His word to completion.