

## The Lampstand / Menorah Exodus 25:31-40

Intro: The Tabernacle is the ‘tent of meeting,’ the tented palace for Israel’s divine king.

- a) where God met Israel during their wilderness wanderings.
- b) It taught Israel who God is – holy – and what is required to relate to him – sacrifice and holiness.
- c) It promised Israel a way back to God also looked forward to Jesus who is the ultimate Temple and the final sacrifice.

The tabernacle, like the garden of Eden, is where God dwells, and various details of the tabernacle suggest it reflects Eden. These parallels include the east-facing entrance guarded by cherubim, the gold, the tree of life (lampstand), and the tree of knowledge (the law in the Ark of the Covenant). God’s dwelling in the tabernacle was a step toward the restoration of paradise, which is to be completed in the new heaven and earth ([Revelation 21-22](#)).

He himself was symbolically represented as dwelling in the “back room” of his house by means of the ark.

In the tabernacle’s “front room” (Holy Place) were several pieces of furniture, the sorts of things that represented the furniture of a home, though on a grander scale. The first of these pieces of household-style furniture to be described is the table. It was primarily for food—a dining table of sorts, symbolizing the fact that Yahweh really did live among his people and inhabit his house in much the same way that they inhabited theirs. In the Tabernacle, God welcomed Israel into his house, symbolic of his eternal home.

### **First: It’s Creation**

- a) It was made of one talent of pure gold = about 75 pounds and approximately 1.5 million dollars in today’s currency
- b) It had 7 oil lamps resting in the small bowls shaped like flower petals
- c) How often did it burn?

Exodus 27:20-21 – *You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may regularly be set up to burn. “In the tent of meeting, outside the veil that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the LORD.*

- d) No dimensions given –
  - Rabbis suspect it was 5 feet by 3 ½ feet
  - The golden menorah in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem is 6.5 feet and plated in 95 pounds of gold (picture)

The closer we get to the Holy of Holies, the more valuable the metals used to create items. We have moved from silver on the curtains, to bronze on the altar and laver and are now seeing gold in the table of shewbread, the lampstand and the altar of incense

### **Second: It's Purpose**

- a) There was no natural source of light in the Holy Place
- b) It lit the way for the priests to
  - Eat the shewbread
  - Care for the altar of incense
  - Make his way through the Holy Place into the Holy of Holies

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- c) It represented God who led Israel through the darkness

1 John 1:5 - *God is light, and in him is no darkness at all*

Psalm 104:1-2 - *You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment*

Daniel 2:22 - *he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.*

The Holy Place was a naturally dark place to which God gave light

Genesis 1:1-3 - *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

- d) It represented Israel

Isaiah 49:6 - *I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."*

The Menorah has become symbolic of Israel as a nation. Jerusalem's fall in 70 A.D. was celebrated by Titus Vespasian as a great victory and a commemorative arch was erected in Rome to mark the occasion. In this picture you see on the triumphal Arch of Titus, in Rome, celebrating the Roman victory over the Jews and the Roman soldiers carrying off the Temple Menorah.



- e) It represented God's guidance then and now

Psalm 119:105 - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Psalm 18:28 - *For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.*

Proverbs 6:23a - *For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light...*

### **Third: It's Fulfilment in Jesus**

a) Jesus is the true tabernacle. John 1:14 tells us that "the Word became flesh and *dwelt* [Gk. σκηνώω] among us," and the Greek translation of "tent of meeting" is σκηνη μαρτυρίου (Ex. 33:7). In other words, when Jesus became the God-man he "tabernacled" among us. (And of course Jesus spoke about "the temple of his body" [John 2:19, 21], and Paul taught that because we are united to the risen Messiah "we are the temple of the living God" [2 Cor. 6:16].)

- b) Jesus's body is the curtain ripped in two that brings us to the holy presence of God.

*"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh. . . ."* (Heb. 10:19-20). (See also Matthew 27:51: "the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.")

- c) Jesus is the great high priest over the house of God.

*". . . and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."* (Heb. 10:21-22)

- d) Jesus is the full and final sacrifice.

*"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29).

*“ . . . We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. . . . Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins . . . By a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” (Heb. 10:10, 12, 14*

e) Christ is the light of the world

John 8:12 - *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Revelation 21:23-24 - *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>24</sup>and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.*

#### **Fourth: Our Application**

Ephesians 5:14 - *Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

1 John 1:7 - *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*

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

Philippians 2:15 - *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

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

1 Peter 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;*

Matthew 5:14 - *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden*

Revelation 1:20 – *...the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

Revelation 1:11 - *“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”*

Each local church is a lampstand. The lampstand in the Old Testament was only one, whereas the lampstands in the New Testament are many. The seven lampstands in Revelation 1 are the multiplication of the one lampstand in Exodus 25. The local churches are the reproductions and extensions of Christ. They and Christ are the same in nature (gold), in form (a stand), and in function (shining). Because of this, the lampstands are also identical to one another; there is no way to distinguish one from the other. As Christ grows in His believers, He transforms them

inwardly into His image, His form (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29). This growth and transformation causes the local churches to give light to its neighborhood, etc. as the testimony of Jesus.