

Introduction

On entering the Holy Place, the priest would see the Golden Lampstand, one of the most beautiful pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle, situated along the south wall.



Fig 6.1 The Golden Lampstand, also known as the Candlestick or Menorah

Construction of the Lampstand

In Exodus 25.31-32 God gave Moses precise instruction on how to construct the Golden Lampstand. It was to be made of pure gold with a central shaft and three branches either side to make a seven candle arrangement. God gave Moses further instructions for the construction of accoutrements for the Golden Lampstand in Exodus 25.37-40. In verse 39 you should note that a talent of pure gold was to be used. A talent is the equivalent of 90 pounds or just over 40 kg. This is approximately 1370 Troy ounces, the measurement standard for gold today. Given the price per ounce (AU\$1679), the sheer monetary value of the Golden Lampstand in today's terms is approximately AU\$2.3 million. The value of the Golden Lampstand, however, is incalculable as it cannot be measured in monetary terms.

Note that God's instruction was that the Lampstand was not to be made in a mold, but was to be "hammered out" meaning that it was to be made of a single piece of continuous gold. God was very particular with His instructions and in Exodus 25.40 reminds Moses to "Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount."

Note carefully that unlike most candlesticks or lampstands, candles were not used. Instead, the Golden Lampstand's special gold containers were filled with olive oil, a frequently used symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Typology of the Lampstand

The Golden Lampstand represents the presence of the Holy Spirit for illuminating all in the Holy Place of fellowship, revealing how fellowship was to be had with God – through attendance upon the Word of God (Table of Showbread) and prayer (Altar of Incense).

There were no windows in the Tabernacle, thus no natural light penetrated that Holy Place. The only light was from the Golden Lampstand which pointed to Christ as the only light by which the priests could fellowship with God. The oil in the Lampstand represents the Holy Spirit who illumines the Word of God to the believer so we may walk in the light of the Word.

The absence of natural light speaks eloquently to us that the realm of the natural reveals nothing of the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ since “The natural man receiveth not the things of the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor 2.14). Those on the outside of the Tabernacle saw only the drab skin covering, but those on the inside saw the beauty of the Tabernacle as it was revealed by the Golden Lampstand. The only people who can appreciate the true beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ are those who have trusted Him as their personal Saviour and have thereby entered into the spiritual realm.

Paul expresses this appreciation of the beauty of Christ in Phil 3.10 with these words: “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.” Such a burning desire can only come through entering into the spiritual realm by the new birth. The natural man has no concept of this passion for the knowledge of Christ and neither can he because he is not the recipient of the illuminating light of the Holy Spirit.

Light from the Lampstand

The light from the Golden Lampstand illuminated the following:

- The Table of Showbread (representing the Word of God)
- The Altar of Incense (representing the place of intercessory prayer)
- The Cherubim on the veil dividing the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies (representing guardianship of the holiness of God)

The light itself, of course, represented the Lord Jesus Christ in all His beauty. There are many references to Christ as the Light in the New Testament. Here are just some of them:

- 1 John 1.5-7
- 1 John 1.9
- John 9.5
- John 12.35-36
- Hebrews 10.19-22

Those who refuse to repent and trust Christ as their Saviour live in spiritual darkness, but those who believe in Him as their personal Saviour walk in spiritual light. The Lampstand speaks eloquently of Christ as the believer's light in this dark interval before His return as the eternal Light in the new Heaven and new earth. While we do not have a Tabernacle today, we have access into the true sanctuary and may walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1.7).

The Lampstand and the Holy Spirit

The Lampstand was made of solid, pure gold and this symbolizes the Deity and purity of Christ, as does the light that emanates from it. However, the seven-stemmed form of the Lampstand is also symbolic of the seven-fold Spirit of God with which Christ, even while on earth, was endowed. In Isaiah 11.1-2, the prophet describes the sevenfold Spirit of God in the following way:

- The Spirit of the LORD (YHWH)
- The Spirit of wisdom
- The Spirit of understanding
- The Spirit of counsel
- The Spirit of might
- The Spirit of knowledge
- The Spirit of the fear of the LORD (YHWH)

In Revelation 1.4, John also refers to the sevenfold Spirit of God. In Revelation 4.5 he once again refers to the seven Spirits of God, meaning sevenfold Spirit of God. So while the seven-stemmed Lampstand symbolizes Christ to the believer as their light in darkness, it also represents the sevenfold Spirit of God. It is well to remember that John attests to the words of Jesus: He (the Holy Spirit) shall testify of me (John 15.26). This is clearly seen in the Holy Place where the Lampstand, symbol of the Holy Spirit, makes light possible to illumine the Word (Showbread) and prayer (Altar of Incense).

In the new Testament, John and Peter both intimately connect the Holy Spirit with Christ (John 16.13-15 & Acts 2.32-33). So, in conclusion, the seven-stemmed Lampstand represent the sevenfold Spirit of God and the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.