

Jesus our Lampstand
Exodus 25:31-40 & 37:17-24

"Thanks" to Charlie and Daniel for preaching in my absence.

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.

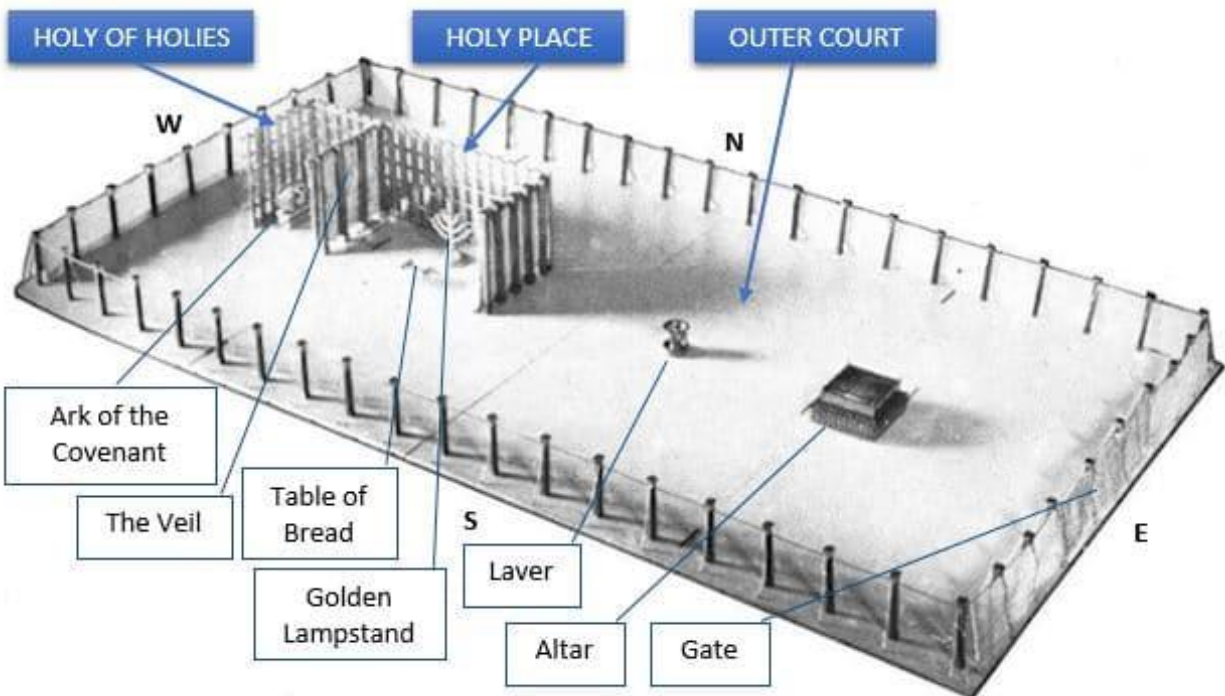
The tabernacle, like the garden of Eden, is where God dwells, and various details of the tabernacle suggest it reflects Eden. God's dwelling in the tabernacle was a step toward the restoration of paradise, which is to be completed in the new heaven and earth (Revelation 21-22) where there will be no Temple because Jesus, the fulfilment of it all, will be there.

So far, we've looked at Jesus as

- a) Our courtyard
- b) Our altar
- c) Our laver

Insert into PP, this picture of the Tabernacle from here - <https://carm.org/other-questions/what-is-the-holy-of->

holies/



Today we move out of the courtyard into the Holy Place where we find three pieces of furniture:

- a) Altar of incense
- b) Table of shewbread
- c) The lampstand / menorah

Insert into PP, this picture of the Holy Place from here – <https://blogs.bible.org/the-tabernacle-of-moses-gods-heavenly-pattern-for-our-spiritual-transformation-part-ii-the-holy-place/>



Let's talk about the Lampstand.

First: It's Creation

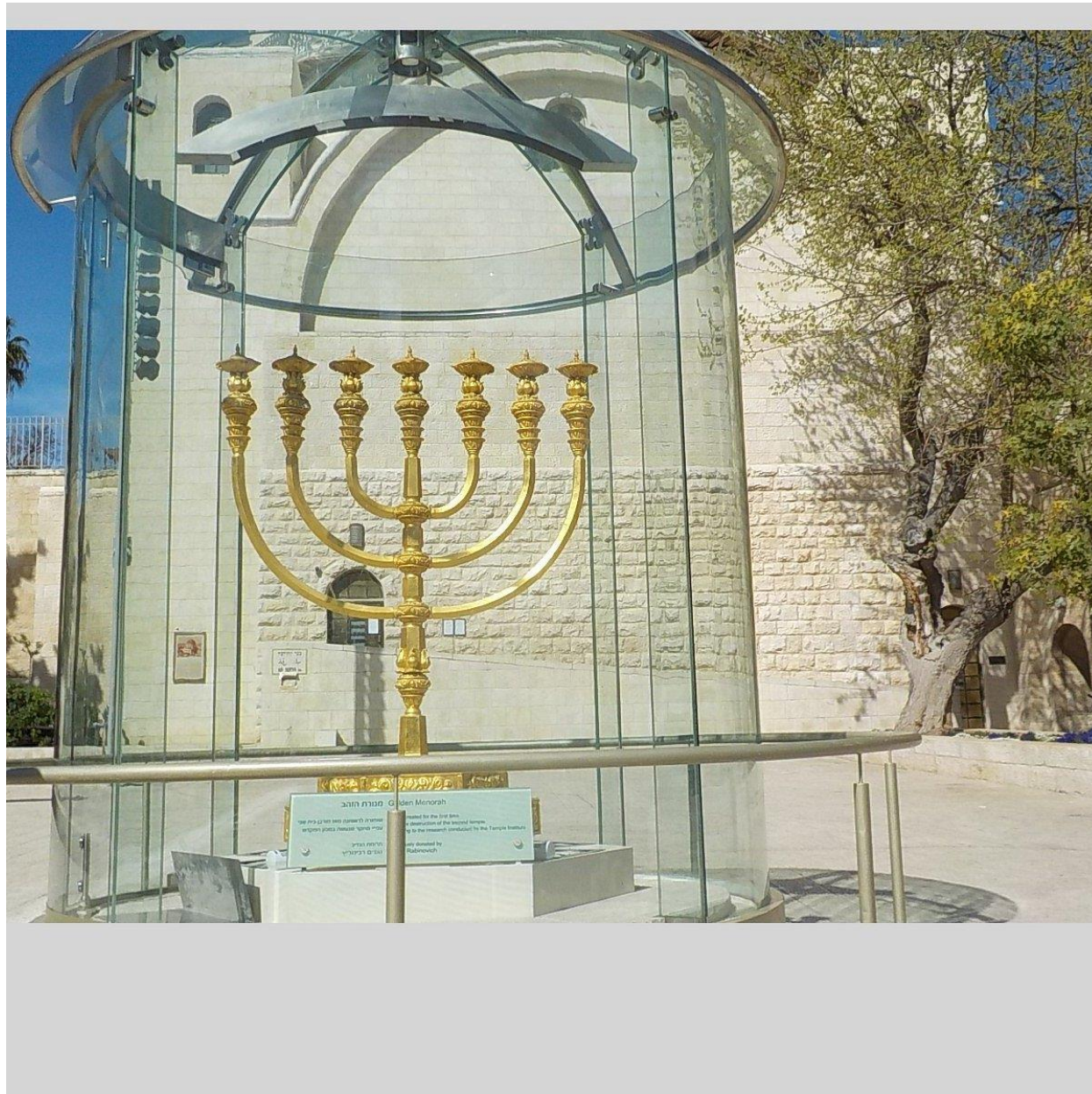
- a) It was made of one talent of pure gold = about 75 pounds and approximately 1.5 million dollars in today's currency
- b) It had 7 oil lamps resting in the small bowls shaped like flower petals
- c) How often did it burn?

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.²¹ 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)

Insert into PP, this image of the Menorah in front of the Hurva Synagogue in Jerusalem from here – (99 lbs of 24-karat gold) https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g293983-d11548355-Reviews-Golden_Menorah-Jerusalem_Jerusalem_District.html



The closer we get to the Holy of Holies, the more valuable the metals used to create items. We have moved from silver hooks 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.

The Tabernacle presents us with a map of how Jesus moved, from Heaven to earth and how we progress, from earth to Heaven.

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 and replace the shewbread
 - Replace incense on the altar of incense
 - Make his way through the Holy Place into the Holy of Holies
- c) It represented God who led Israel through the darkness

Exodus 13:21-22 – *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.*

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.*

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

In other words, 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. ² 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. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

- d) It represented Israel

The whole purpose of God choosing Israel was to spread his name/fame throughout the earth.

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 with a commemorative arch was erected in Rome. In this picture you see on the triumphal Arch of Titus, celebrating the Roman victory over the Jews and the Roman soldiers carrying off the Temple Menorah.

Insert these pictures into the PP -



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. σκηνόω] among us," and the Greek translation of "tent of meeting" is σκηνή 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.

Hebrews 10:19-20 - *"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. . . ."* (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.

Hebrews 10:21-22 - *". . . 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."*

- d) Jesus is the full and final sacrifice.

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

Hebrews 10:10, 12, 14 - *". . . 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."*

- 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. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.*

Fourth: Our Application

1. For knowledge

Proverbs 1:7 - *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;*

2. For salvation

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

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

3. For sanctification

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*

4. For sharing the Gospel

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

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

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,*

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;*

5. For the church

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.

Community Groups:

- 1 – Read the text
- 2 – How does the Tabernacle represent Jesus?
- 3 – What aspect of the Tabernacle have you enjoyed the most?
- 4 – What did you learn about Jesus as our courtyard?
- 5 – What did you learn about Jesus as our altar?
- 6 – What did you learn about Jesus as our laver?
- 7 – What three items were in the Holy Place?
- 8 – Discuss how the lampstand was made?
- 9 – What was the purposes of the lampstand in the Holy Place?
- 10 – In what various ways does Jesus fulfil the lampstand?
- 11 – How might you apply the truths about the lampstand to your own life?

Daily Devotion:

Monday, the 13th. Read John 1:14; 2:19, 21 & 2 Corinthians 6:16. The Tabernacle was where God met Israel. In the Promised Land, God met the nations in Israel and in the NT, the church and you are where God meets people and people meet God. Seeing the world like this can transform your personal life and work life. In your interactions today, how will you (or how have you) been God's meeting place for people? How are you God's light to the world?

Tuesday, the 14th. Read Gen 1:1-3, Ex 13:21-22 & 1 Jn 1:5. The creation of light dispelled the world's darkness, and the pillar of fire created light in darkness. This is one of the purposes of light. As God's lampstand in a dark world, you are the light of God's world, but the true light is Jesus, reflected in his word and through you. This means your light is dependent on your fellowship with God and your interaction with Scripture. Make Bible reading and memorization a part of your daily plan. Then, interject God's word into a conversation today.

Wednesday, the 15th. Read Prov 1:7, Jn 8:12. God promises that reverencing him first will not only keep us from idol worship but grant us wisdom/knowledge. In part this means interpreting the world from a biblical perspective. If someone asked, how would you say the Bible inform your thinking about truth, relationships, marriage, family, job, world events. Today, listen to what worldviews people share and at some point, interject a biblical worldview into a conversation.

Thursday, the 16th. Read Mt 5:14, 16, Phil 2:15, 1 Ptr 2:9. God created Adam and Eve to be conduits of his grace to the world. This is also true of you. Just like the first day, God uses your light to divide light from darkness (truth from error) and to insert light into darkness. Today, instead of cursing the darkness, which is natural to a fallen world, be intentional about serving

as the light of Christ in your attitude, behavior, words, and actions. At the end of the day, reflect on your successes and areas for improvement for being God's light. Confess any areas of sinfulness, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom, and courage as you engage God's world tomorrow.

Friday, the 17th. Read Ex 19:1-6, 1 Jn 1:5 & Rev 21:23-24. There will be no darkness or temple in the New Jerusalem. This is because Jesus will be our ultimate light and home, the place we meet and forever live in God's presence. Living amongst his people has been God's plan since he created the world, placed humans in it and then walked among them before the Fall. Everything after that has pointed and led to Heaven where we will forever live with God. Such thinking should not keep us from trying to influence this world but gives us constant hope that God will ultimately transform every sinful thing into a glorious good. As you witness the Fall in your life, on the news, etc., pray with the apostle John who prayed, "*Come Lord Jesus*" (Rev 22:20) and make this desire your daily prayer.