The Golden Lampstand Pt. 1

By Charles Feinberg

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This is part of the series on the tabernacle it is Tape 5 Tape 5 is on the Golden Lamp Stand. Christ our light this message is by Dr. Charles L. Feinberg of Talbot Theological Seminary. As we have already seen in other parts of the tabernacle furniture each piece of furniture has its own significance for the illustration of a truth concerning our Lord Jesus Christ. When we come to the Golden Lamp Stand we are dealing with a piece of furniture of the tabernacle which beautifully points to Christ our light the Golden Lamp Stand Christ our light.

The passage that speaks principally of this wonderful portion of the tabernacle is Exodus 25 verses 31 to 40. As with the other portions of the tabernacle there are other mentions of this important feature Exodus 37 verses 17 to 24 also speak of it the Golden Lamb stand is mentioned again in Exodus 39 Verse 37. In Chapter 40 verse four verse 24 verse 25 in the book of Leviticus we read of it in Leviticus 24 verses 1 to 4 and then finally it is found in numbers Chapter 8 verses 1 to 4.

We're reading now from the word of God concerning the Golden Lamp Stand as the passage is before us in Exodus 25 verses 31 to 40 and thou shalt make a lamp stand of pure gold of beaten work shall the Lamp Stand be made even its base and its shaft. Its cups its knobs and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. And there shall be six branches going out of the sides thereof three branches of the Lamp Stand Out of the one side thereof and three branches of the
lamp stand out at the other side thereof. three cups made like almond blossoms in one branch a knop and a flower and three cups made like almond blossoms in the other branch a knop and a flower. So for the six branches going out of the Lamp Stand and in the lamp stand four cups made like almond blossoms and knops thereof and the flowers thereof and a knop under two branches of one piece with it and knop under two branches of one piece with it and a knop under two branches of one piece with it. For the six branches going out of the Lamp Stand their knops and their branches shall be of one piece with it the whole of it. One beaten work of pure gold. And thou shalt make the lamps thereof seven. They shall light the lamps thereof to give light. Over against it and the snuffers thereof and the snuff dishes thereof shall be a pure gold of a talent of pure gold shall be it made with all these vessels and see that thou make them after their pattern which hath been showed thee in the mount.

I've just been reading from the word of God in Exodus 25 31 to 40. The first passage the basic passage you may call it on the Golden Lamp Stand. Friends, in studying the tabernacle furniture. All the vessels that stood in a straight line can be seen to illustrate God's provision for our coming near to him. They illustrate his provision for our access for our entrance into his presence. Let me illustrate the altar of burnt offering was first in the line and that indicated that in order to come nigh unto God we must first of all come by way of blood. The mistake that Cain made we must not make. He tried to come into the presence of God without blood and it was tragedy second provision for our access is washing by the Laver, third the golden altar of incense which we shall be treating later. In another study the golden altar of incense also a provision for our drawing nigh. We do draw nigh through our intercessor. The Lord Jesus Christ. And then there was the veil that hid the Ark of the Covenant from the Hebrew worshiper and we know
now that the veil also indicates our access in to the presence of God it's through the veil that was rend even his flesh that we enter in so all.

Of those vessels all of those provisions that stood in a straight line are God's provision for our access. Now those that stand at the side namely at the north the table of showbread the south the Golden Lamp Stand which we are treating now. Those that stand at the side of the straight line in the Tabernacle and in the temple later those who stand at the side represent the privileges table of show bread what's the privilege feasting on the bread of life. Our center of communion and strength and sustenance for the Christian life. What a privilege and a responsibility it indicates as well the responsibility of the believer not only to feast on the word but to see that the bread is given forth to the ends of the earth to souls that are needy and hungry. For this essential element of spiritual life. And the Golden Lamp Stand which is another article of furniture that stands at the side the privileges to feast on the light. Christ is our light and the responsibility to give forth that light to show forth that light as lights in a dark dark world. Of what material was the Golden Lamp Stand made? It's very clear from the passage in Exodus 25 and other passages that the lamp stand was of pure gold.

Its worth has been computed as probably between twenty-five thousand and thirty thousand dollars. It weighed one hundred and fourteen pounds. How do we know it's worth well exodus twenty-five thirty-nine? We read of a talent of pure gold shall it be made with all these vessels. We read of the snuffers and snuff dishes for instance in exodus twenty-five thirty-eight and the snuffers thereof the snuff dishes thereof shall be of pure gold. You see the value of these also. They are of this precious metal. Many have misunderstood the meaning of snuffers and snuff dishes they certainly have nothing to do with that article today which we call snuff. Snuffers and snuff dishes were those which trimmed trimmed the wick in the lamp stands now
the lamp stand itself often called candlestick. But you notice we avoid that terminology because candles as we know them now came into existence much later than Moses' time. But the lamp stand primarily speaks of the Ministry of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit as the light of the world. In John 8:12 our Lord Jesus tells us that he is the light of the world. He is the one who illuminates us spiritually Godward.

He is the light of the world and the one who walks after him who follows after him has the light of life. First of all, then the lampstand represents the Ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit as the light of the world. It has another meaning though it speaks of the Ministry of Israel in Zechariah four we find the Lamp Stand in enlarged form. And there we are told it speaks of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. But in Israel and through Israel to the world they have been the light center. They have been the avenue of light through which the word of God has come through which the truth of the word of salvation has come. They have been the avenue through which indeed the light of the world himself the Lord Jesus Christ came. We read in Romans 9 and of whom came that blessed one after the flesh and after whom and from whom came Messiah God above all blessed forever amen. Thirdly the lampstand not only speaks of the Ministry of Christ in his marvelous person not only speaks of the Ministry of Israel to the world shedding the light abroad but thirdly of the Ministry of the church. Today as lights in this present evil dark sin cursed world it's in Ephesians 5:8 where we're told what the Ministry of the church is today.

The darkness is not to overcome her. It envelops her. It's round about her round the church but in Ephesians 5 we read. Actually we should begin with verse seven Ephesians 5 7 be not ye therefore partakers with them with the ungodly for you were once darkness spiritual darkness lost condition but are now light in the Lord walk as children of light for the fruit of the
light. Is in all goodness and righteousness and truth that is the portion of you and me as believers. What was the form of this Lampstand a very interesting article of furniture because it is today the emblem of the state of Israel. We find it on their flag the flag of Israel. We find it in their coinage and we find it also in their stamps. What was the form of the lampstand? What were its dimensions. It had seven branches with a center shaft probably taller than the rest. All the branches with a shaft were stands for lamps which had oil in them for the light. So you see they were not candles involved here. They were lamps and stands upon which the lamps rested.

No measurement indistinctly enough no measurement was given for the lampstand. Reminds us of the truth of John's 3:34 with reference to our Lord Jesus Christ and that is that the Spirit of God was given unto him without measure. He was light unbounded unlimited unrestricted. What was the upkeep of this lamp? Exodus. The 30th chapter in the seventh verse tells us clearly what the lamps were to have by way of attention. The lamps were dressed they were trimmed by the High Priest. Every morning Exodus 30 and verse 7 we read and Aaron shall burn thereon incense of sweet spices. Every morning when he dresses the lambs he shall burn it, speaking of the all or incense but the relationship of what he does there with the lamps. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he Aaron shall burn it he is to burn the incense when he dresses the lamps and that is every morning. Exodus 30 verse 7. The lamps were to be lighted every evening Exodus 30 verse 8. And when Aaron lightest the lamps at evening he shall burn it. A perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations, see the incense was on the altar of incense in the same compartment in the same holy place as the table of showbread. The table of showbread was there The Golden Lamp Stand was there. The altar of incense was there. This lamp stand was carried into Babylon.
We read of it Jeremiah 52:19. Also found at the feast of Belshazzar in the fifth chapter of Daniel Belshazzar was a grandson of Nebuchadnezzar and he was having Belshazzar was Daniel 5:2 and 5. He was having an idolatrous. Licentious feast a drunken revelry and in the height of all that merriment, a portion of a hand began to write on the wall. Behind the lamp stand and it said you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. And he was to be cut off as King that very night. And it did come to pass as the last verse of Daniel five tells us this lampstand was used at Belshazzar's feast. What was its position. Where was it placed in the tabernacle? We have. Hinted at it more than once. It was in the holy place with the table of showbread and the golden altar of incense. This was the only light in the holy place. No other light. The incense at the altar of incense didn't provide the needed light. The table didn't provide the needed light. They provided other things. This is the only light in the holy place. And because there were skins over the tabernacle there was a covering over the tabernacle. That meant there was no sunlight coming in at any time. There was no natural light in the tabernacle.

It was this God-given, God provided light at the Golden Lamp Stand. That was the all sufficient source of light in the Tabernacle and in this light alone the priest offered incense and renewed the bread of the table in the light of Christ's blessed presence as light of the world. All holy work must be done. The Outer Court you remember was lighted by the sun with natural light. The holy place by the lampstand a type of ministry in the church today. The Holy of Holies was lighted by the Shekinah glory of God's own blessed presence heaven itself will be the holiest of all. My friends we have all three forms of light mentioned in Revelation 22 verse five. It tells us there will be no lamp. That's the holy place. Revelation 22:5 says there'll be no need of the sun. That's the great luminary the light of the outer court. But the Lord God himself shall be the light thereof. He is the holy of holies.
Now the shaft we mentioned and there were branches that went out of the center part of the Center shaft the shaft was called technically Lamp Stand not Candlestick more correctly lampstand. The shaft is Christ himself. The branches on either side are his people. We are part of him just as the branches are part of the vine and it's because as John 15:5 is illustrated here that without me ye can do nothing. Notice Jesus is not on the periphery. He's not on either side. of this lampstand He is in the midst and those branches were beaten out of the Center shaft just as Eve, a picture of the church was taken out of the side of her beloved of Adam. Here it was by beating and beating always speaks of suffering especially Isaiah 53:10 comes to mind. It pleased the Lord to bruise him. Isaiah 53:10. The lampstand was not beaten in the holy place but outside it had to be prepared in another place altogether. Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered outside the gate of Jerusalem. We then are members of his flesh and of his bones. He the head, we the body. Now the shaft and the branches were all of pure gold.

The branches were made partakers of the same nature as the Lampstand. We're reminded of a second Peter 1:4 that we are partakers of the divine nature how beautiful. this is pictured for us in the hundred and thirty third psalm. It's a song of a sense of David Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It's like the precious oil upon the head that ran down upon the beard even Aaron's beard that came down upon the skirt of his garments you see friends the same anointing that Aaron had on his head went down to the very skirt of his garments the same anointing that our blessed spiritual head Christ has is the portion of the youngest most recent one born into the family of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Now this we as believers have through the work of the Holy Spirit. The strength of the branch was in the shaft apart from the shaft the branches had no power whatsoever to stand. We've already quoted John 15:5 without me.
You can do nothing but we must not live on a negation in our Christian life. Philippians 4:13 has the wonderful triumphant assured statement of the apostle Paul. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I'm empowered to it. I made sufficient ye and more than sufficient as in Romans 8 we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. The beauty of the shaft was put upon each branch the knobs the bowls and the flowers speaking of a bud flower and fruit. Those that adorned the center lamp stand were to be wrought on each individual branch. Psalm 90:17 says may the beauty of the Lord our God be seen upon us. Some would even tell us that the three branches on either side may speak of the three great gifts in the church. The Prophet, the Evangelist, and the Pastor teacher. Ephesians 4, it may be so it may speak of all of the church ministering the light now the light of the lampstand, Friends, was something different from the lamp stand itself. That light was the gift of God. John 1:4, he is the light that lights every man coming into the world.

Life is light and light is life. before you and I can shine for God. We must like the lampstand be lit with the blessed Eternal Fire of Life from God. This light God made it clear again and again the light was never to go out. The life we have is eternal life dear friend. It is never to go out. It is never to be extinguished. Letting our lights shine means letting the light and life of Christ who lives in us be seen. It is not only a testimony for the reality of our life. But for the reality and the power and the blessedness of our Lord Jesus Christ. This light like the fire on the altar was to be used and kept not made. Eternal life is not the product of men. It is the gift of God. Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Oh this light. Yes, eternal life. Is not the product of man. It is the gift of God. We must be born from above. We must reflect his marvelous never to be extinguished light.
A skeptic, we're told, said to a converted Quaker once my young friend all that you're talking about of the Christian life and what you have in Jesus. My young friend. It's all moonshine. The young man just converted said to the skeptic. I thank thee for the compliment. That's it. That's it exactly. That is just it precisely. The moon borrows its light from the sun and we borrow our light from Christ who is the son of righteousness. Now this light had as its purpose four things. it had a fourfold purpose. First of all, it was to shine before the Lord dear friends. Our first duty is to live before God oh we are living in a day when so many are living before man living before the news media living before the plaudits of others but first and foremost our first duty is to live before God. It's possible to be shining in the eyes of every man and yet not be shining before God. How different from our Lord Jesus are we when we're only making an impression on men. Hear it in Isaiah 53:2. He grew up. As from a dry ground as a tender plant. He grew up before him.

Who is the him God the Father the Lord God of Israel the God of Abraham the God of Isaac the God of Jacob. It is possible I say to be shining and the eyes to be making a tremendous mark in the esteem in the consideration in the judgment of every man and yet not to be shining before God. We need a heart devoted to him. And I single to his glory in this body which belongs to him. We are to glorify God in this body which is his 1 6 verses 19 and 20 to shine before the Lord. Let's remember that is our purpose to bring glory to Him. The old Westminster confession had it right. It said the chief end, the chief purpose of man is to glorify God, to shine before him and to enjoy him forever. To shine before the Lord. But there was more involved in shining before the Lord ah the lamp stand shone upon the table. When we live only to please God then we reveal Christ as the bread of life to others. Men see in Christ the bread they need the sustenance for their spiritual life. The men everywhere will see the bread they need for their
Perishing Souls how by the bright joyful light of the dedicated Consecrated Life and testimony and manner of living of a dedicated committed believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. [End]