

The Sanctuary – Holy Place (Lampstand) III

ST Series 11

The Seven-Branched Lampstand

Aaron's rod pictured life in all its forms. The bud (knops or knobs, Ex.25:31,33, 36) represented the babe eager to live, with abundant possibilities. Its branches were ornamented with exquisitely wrought flower, resembling lilies" (PP 348: cf Vulgate and LXX; cf. Matt 6:30; Isa 40:6; 1 Pet 1:24) These blossoms stood for ephemeral youth fragrant with promise. Then the almonds pictured mature age and sustained effort.

Buds, blossoms and almonds were arranged in regular relationships to each other along the boughs. Buds opening into flowers, the flowers maturing into fruit, all interdependent, and all reaching up to the stars. This is the principle of the kingdom of God by which the perfect light of truth may be uplifted before the world.

The Oil (Exodus 25:37; 37:23; Numb 4:9; 2 Chron 4:20)

1. REPRESENTS THE SPIRIT:

Each branch upheld a golden dish, shaped like an almond. These were to contain oil into which wicks were placed. Each almond-shaped bowl was fitted with a short golden stem. When this was put into a hole at the top of the branch, the golden dish could be rotated or easily removed for cleaning and trimming.

APPLICATION—The prophet Zechariah watched celestial agencies filling these bowls with the oil of the Spirit (Zech. 4:14)

These "anointed ones standing by the Lord of the whole earth, have the position once given to Satan as covering cherub. But the holy beings surrounding His throne, the Lord keeps up a constant communication with the inhabitants of the earth".

(RH July 20, 1897)

This heavenly Oil is the only fuel God requires for the lamps.

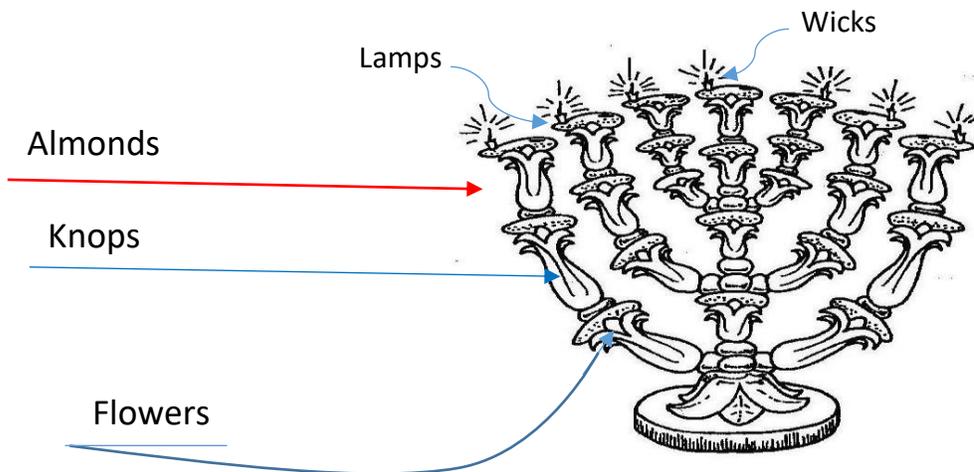
When tending the Menorah, the priest poured olive oil into these seven containers from supplies kept in the gold "bowl of the Sanctuary. From this the lamps of the Sanctuary are fed, that they may give continuous bright and shining light" (6T 11,12) This reservoir was replenished by "the two olive trees" (Rev 11:3-7; Zech 4:3). From these twin witnesses to truth, symbolizing the Old and New Testaments, the oil of the Spirit still flows to help regenerate souls to shine.

From them "the fullness of divine light and love and power is imparted to His people, that they may impart to others light and joy and refreshing"

2. WAS BORN IN PAIN:

Olive oil was the only fuel used for the lamps (Ex 27:20, 21; Lev 24:2,3) This was obtained from olives growing on the topmost branches of the trees from which the finest oil was obtained. To extract the oil the “berries [were] beaten” with Sticks (Menahoth 8:3-5). This method lessened the likelihood of introducing pulp which might cloud the oil. Gethsemane means “oil press.” Did the Holy Spirit suffer with Jesus? After His agony in the Garden, the Saviour was *twice scourged* by Pilate and *punched and struck by a reed and cruel hands*. These “beatings” played their terrible part in the development of the Light of the world, “Who, through the Spirit offered Himself to God” (Heb 9:14) to shine in the darkness of earth’s night by His life and death. The sufferings of Jesus were the basis of His gift of the Spirit.

The fuel oil is a “symbol of the Holy Spirit” (COL 407) and “represents the grace with which God keeps the lamps of believers supplied” (4BC 1179). These lamps must be supplied with fresh oil every morning and evening. “He is the Light of the world, and the one who works successfully for the Master must kindle his taper from that divine life” (MLT 166). Because He endured every trial He is empowered to send forth the Comforter.



Though the inspired description is so minute, yet the caution is added:

“Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount.” Ex. 25:40

Why all this detail, re-enforced by special words of caution?

Because, any variation from God’s exact plan would destroy or mar the meaning, and thus fail of teaching important spiritual truth pertaining to the plan of salvation.

Wicks of Righteousness (Isa.42:3; 64:6; Matt.12:20)

1. WICKS SATURATED IN OIL:

The wick in each of the seven lamps must be saturated with oil in order to produce light. For the Christian **to radiate light**

“the holy oil [must be] emptied from the two olive branches into the heart. This will flow forth in words that will reform, but no exasperate. The truth is to be spoken in _____. Then the Lord Jesus by His Spirit will supply the force and the power. That is His work” (6T 123)

Not by might, nor by power, **but by My Spirit** (Zech 4:6). As the olive trees empty themselves into the _____, so the heavenly messengers seek to communicate all that they receive from God. The **whole heavenly treasure** awaits our **demand** and **reception**; and as we receive the blessing, we in turn are to **impart it**. Thus, it is that **the holy lamps** are fed, and the church becomes a **light-bearer** to the world”.

(TM 510)

The priests personally tended the lamps each day at dawn, and then again at dusk (Ex 27:21, 21; 30:7,8; Lev 24:2-4; Numb 8:2,3), this is to illustrate that Jesus our heavenly Priest “Himself supplies the oil to these burning lamps. He it is that kindles the flame”

(6BC 1118)

2. HEAVENLY FIRE

No common fire might ever be used to ignite the wicks (Ex 30:7-9). The wood burning on the copper altar alone supplied the sacred spark. “The **fire** upon this altar was kindled by the Lord Himself, and was **sacredly cherished** by feeding it with holy incense...”

(ST 6/24/1880)

Constant prayer alone will keep these **coals aglow**. And only the consecrated priest might take these coals in his **golden censer** to the **lampstand**. When the _____ and _____ had been readied, a touch from the sacred fire made new-created light chase the dimness from the holy place. David understood the truth here revealed: “For **Thou wilt light my candle**” (Ps 18:2), he rejoiced. The gospel story this ritual tells is clear: **Calvary’s altar-cross** provides the **spark** which **lights the lives** of all God’s saints.

The Spirit speaks to each of His *“royal priests:”*

*“Every one who kindles his taper from the **divine altar** holds his **lamp** firmly. He does not use common fire upon his censer, but the **holy fire**, kept burning by the power of God day and night. Those who **walk in the footsteps of Jesus**, who will **surrender** their lives to His guidance and to His service, have the **golden oil** in their **vessels** with their **lamps**. They will never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. The **lamp of life** is always trimmed by the **very hand that lit it**” (MLT 217).*

Each day at dawn, and then again at eventide, the family priest should relight the lamps in his home with a spark from Calvary’s luminous Light. The Lord would have us sense the link between Golgotha and Christian witnessing.

3. INSTRUMENTS OF SERVICE

A linen wick was cradled in each almond dish. The Hebrew sages remind us that “they made wicks from the worn our drawers and girdles of the priests and with them they set the candlesticks alight” (*Sukkah* 5:3). The Jewish writings (the Talmud) give instructions re. the how the wicks were made and the material used.

In essence, the wicks were made from the ‘undergarments’ of the priests. When no longer suitable for ministry, the linen robes were torn into strips and plaited into wicks. When put on the candelabrum (lampstand), they **flamed** in one last **glorious** martyrdom!

Let’s break this down –

Oil = Holy Spirit

Fire = Consuming Fire

Wicks = linen garments (_____)

Isaiah 64:6 – “All our righteousnesses are as _____.”

This snowy linen reminds us of the righteousness which clothes our great High Priest and represents His matchless character.

Oil (H.S.) saturates the wicks (filthy garments). When that wick is lit with the spark of Christ, fire results which consumes the wicks (the filthy rags) *our fallen nature is being consumed* while we have the privilege of giving off the “Light” of the world.

As the intensity of the flame (trial and tribulation) increases, more of the ‘filthy garments’ are consumed, revealing more of the pure and holy character of Jesus Christ. Wow! Thus we glorify God!

Combo of all three puts off light.

The minister used implements of gold to care for each lamp. With tongs he lifted up the bowed down wick (Isa 42:3; Matt 12:20), and restored the “smoking flax.” Flax in Gr. - ‘linon’ phonetic: lee’-non

Meaning: linen clothing.

With the golden tongs and snuff dishes (Ex 25:38) the priest removed the ash from the almond bowls and placed new wicks in position. The ashes from the spent wicks and those of the consumed incense on the golden altar, were carried out and with the ashes from the brazen altar cast outside the camp.