

Exegetical Notes, Exodus 25:31-40
“Reminders of His Presence: The Lampstand”

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Exodus 25:31-40

Verse 31

Make a lampstand of pure gold and hammer it out, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms shall be of one piece with it.

- The third piece of furniture God ordered for the Tabernacle was a lampstand, in Hebrew, menorah. A lampstand was a stand designed to hold ancient oil burning lamps. The lamps were bowls that were filled with oil. At one spot on the rim of the bowl the edged was pinched to hold a cloth wick.
- The lampstand God ordered for the Tabernacle was to be hammered out of a single block of pure gold. It was to be made of one piece rather than joined from several pieces.
- The lampstand was to be elaborately decorated with flower-like objects, buds, and blossoms.

Verse 32

Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand -- three on one side and three on the other.

- The lampstand was to have six arms or branches that extended upward out of the main trunk of it. Three branches were to be on each side of the trunk.

Verse 33-36

Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand. And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under

the third pair -- six branches in all. The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold.

- Each of the branches or arms of the lampstand was to be decorated with three objects that resembled the flowers and buds of an almond tree. The almond was the first of the trees to blossom in the spring of the year. It was regarded as a reminder of the renewal of life that comes with the spring of the year.
- The lampstand was to be decorated with these flowers and buds as a reminder that God alone is the source and giver of life and that life is God's gift to all.

Verse 37

Then make seven lamps, and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it.

- The Tabernacle was a windowless tent. There was no outside, natural light supplied to its interior. It was to be lighted with this lampstand.
- Seven golden bowls were made. Seven is the number which indicates completion and holiness. The number means that all the light came from this lampstand. It is the only source of light in the Tabernacle. It provided all the light needed in that holy place.

Verse 38-40

Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold. A talent of pure gold is to be used for the lampstand and all these accessories. See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.

- Of all of the furnishings of the Tabernacle, the lampstand is the most intricate and elaborate. God warns Israel to be sure to follow his instructions for it in every detail.
- A talent is equal to about 75 pounds.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Reminders of His Presence: The Lampstand*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)