

## **TABERNACLE OF WORSHIP IV: Don't lose your light!**

### **Series theme scripture: Exodus 25:8-9**

#### Relevance:

- To create an inner space where the spirit of God can dwell and dominate
  - One of the hardest things to preach in today's church is what Jesus wants. People seem to only want to hear stuff that is relevant to what they are going through. People want to hear about themselves and not the Lord and what he wants. You give Him what He wants, then you'll get what you need and possibly desire because He has already given us everything we need.
- to respond to the call of God in the earth for improvements and betterment in our daily living
  - there is a call back to being serious with God
  - a call back to intentional and purposeful living
- to fulfill the expectation of true worship and being a Christ-like bride

#### Earlier topics

Tabernacle Worship part one – Time of preparation

Tabernacle Worship two – Altar of Sacrifice

Tabernacle Worship three – Altar of Sacrifice and the Brazen Altar

Today, I want to introduce another piece of furniture in the tabernacle located in the Holy Place of the Inner Court.

## Background

As the priests enter into the Holy Place, they will see the Menorah. The lampstand provided the only source of light within the entire Tabernacle, just as Christ is the light of the world. (John 8:12)

The menorah is described in the Bible as the seven-lamp (six branches) ancient Hebrew lampstand made of pure gold and used in the [tabernacle](#) set up by [Moses](#) in the wilderness and later in the [Temple in Jerusalem](#).

Exodus 25:31-40 provides for us God's instructions to Moses on how to construct the Menorah or The lampstand. The lamps of the menorah were lit daily from fresh, consecrated olive oil and burned from evening until morning, according to [Exodus 27:21](#).

It has been said that the menorah is a symbol of the nation of Israel and its mission to be "a light unto the nations." ([Isaiah 42:6](#)).

- I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

The earlier teachings emphasize that light is not a violent force; Israel is to accomplish its mission by setting an example, not by using force. This idea is highlighted in the vision of the Prophet Zechariah in Zechariah 4:1-6 who sees a menorah, and God explains: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit."

Time will not allow me to do a full discourse on the Menorah, but The Menorah disappeared after the deconstruction of the second Temple and the Talmud (Jewish law book) forbade its reconstruction.

The lamp has taken many forms through the ages, but its essential feature has been eight receptacles for oil or candles and a holder for the shammash (“servant”) light, which is used for kindling the other lights.

### The Menorah

No matter what period we live in, whether it’s Moses’ day or today, our world will be filled by the darkness of humanity (sin). Sin’s sole purpose is to destroy individuals, families, communities, and nations and the only way to overcome this darkness is to shine God’s light and point people to God.

The Bible reminds us that, “[We] are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.” (1 Thessalonians 5:5)

True worship means being the light - It requires us to live as sons and daughters of the Most High and wield our authority to push back the darkness of our world.

### Transition to John 8:12

The Menorah also represents the illumination of the Holy Spirit living in us: bringing understanding of the Word and enabling us to live as the light.

Again, The lampstand provided the only source of light within the entire Tabernacle, just as Christ is the light of the world. (John 8:12)

Anyone who struggles to understand the world needs only look to Christ in and by whom all things are illuminated. In Christ all the questions are answered: How did we get here; what’s wrong with the world; how can it be fixed; what is the meaning of life; how

should we live? Jesus tells us still today that to look to him is to find answers to all these questions and more.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the Word by whom the whole world was made (Jn 1:3) and that he is the way, the truth, and the life. To refuse to follow him is to continue to walk in some kind of darkness, groping for answers, even if the questions are unexpressed. To follow him is to see what is ahead, immediately, and eternally into the future. Christ shows us that the world was fallen and that God has a plan to save it. He shows us that we ourselves are in need of salvation and that he died on the cross to redeem us and forgive us, reconciling us to the Father. Christ shows us the nature of the holiness and love of God, the wrath for sin combined with the mercy of forgiveness, and justice of God with the forgiveness of God for us.

And this light of life shows how to walk in him until he returns, loving God with all our heart, soul, and strength, and loving our neighbor as ourselves, even loving our enemies. The light shows us how to die to ourselves that we might live true life abundantly in him forever and ever.

Seven times in the gospel of John, Jesus makes a powerful statement beginning with the phrase "I am." These comments echo the words of God to Moses in Exodus 3:14. There, when Moses asks who he should say has sent him to Israel, God tells Moses to tell the people "I AM WHO I AM...Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" This phrase implies the simplest expression of God's nature: He just is, He must be. When Jesus uses this phrasing, He is deliberately invoking that same essence.

This is the second of John's seven "I AM" statements. The first came when Jesus was preaching to the crowd in Capernaum, the

morning after feeding thousands with a small boy's lunch (John 6:35). Later in this same chapter Jesus will use a slightly different version of this idea—not part of the primary seven "I AM" statements—resulting in rage from the Pharisees.

This incident occurs during the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem. Jesus has already used festival rituals as analogies for His role as Messiah (John 7:37–38). As part of this major festival, lamps would be lit using wicks made from priestly garments. Light was a powerful metaphor in Hebrew thinking (Psalm 84:11; Malachi 4:2). **"Light," for the Jewish person, was the ultimate ideal, a representation of salvation, knowledge, and goodness.**

For Jesus to claim to be the "light of the world" was no small thing. In fact, it is a claim to equality with God. Even further, the Greek of this passage indicates Jesus' claim to be "the" light, not merely "a" light. Meaning he is the single, solitary source of "light."

Those who follow Christ, in truth, may stumble into darkness, but they will never perpetually "walk" in it (John 12:46; Psalm 36:9).

### *Wick vs Soot*

Old saints used to say: keep your lamps trimmed and burning bright.

Wick is to deliver fuel (wax) to the flame.

Burning a candle without trimming the wick between uses could cause a dangerously large flame. It also increases the amount of soot that forms when the candle burns.

Soot – a black powdery or flaky substance consisting largely of amorphous carbon. Can soot kill you? Soot particles are so tiny that they bypass our natural ability to expel larger particles with a cough or sneeze. When soot particles are inhaled, they lodge deep in the lungs and enter the bloodstream, leading to heart attacks, cancer and even death.

Aaron’s descendants handled the trimming of the lamp.

### WHAT IS A WICK TRIMMER?

You’ve probably seen it before, a particularly strange metal pair of “scissors” with a small plate?

With its curved shape, the wick trimmer is easy to use in any container, small, deep or big, you can use the same tool!

It makes a clean cut of the wick while recovering the debris.

### WHY DO YOU NEED TO TRIM YOUR WICKS?

It's important for so many reasons but let's name a few;

Clean burn: avoid dark smoke (and smoke alarm detector!)

- visibility

Clean container: avoid smoky candle jars

- A vessel that had nothing inside that could kill it.

Better fragrance diffusion: enhance the scent diffusion while burning

- Release an aroma in your life that pleases the Lord.
- Remember the burning of flesh on the altar released an aroma that God enjoyed

Burn safely: a longer wick creates a higher flame which can be dangerous

- A balanced flame that attracts non-believers and yet sustains the life

Prevent mushrooming: remove the build-up of carbon

HOW (AND HOW OFTEN) DO YOU USE A WICK TRIMMER?

Good news, it's quick and simple! But it's a routine and you have to do it, every-time you use your candles.

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INTENSITY TIMES LIGHT EQUALS HOLINESS

How did I overcome this tendency to just float through the week get spiritually fed on Sundays and Wednesdays? I learned to feed myself. I started reading the Word (which equals Light 1st formula) and praying daily. I would sit down early in the morning and pray for understanding, open the Word of God and read. Sometimes I read the Bible just to read. I love to read. I had then and now my little place of prayer. A place I can go to be alone With God. That does not have to be a physical place it is a place in your heart that you can get to from anywhere. A place that offers little if any distractions. That is place in your heart where Jesus lives. The problem with most Christians is that they have Jesus in their hearts but, they have put Him into a room with a closed door, and only open the door when they are in trouble. What better source of light than the light of the world.

John 3:19 ESV says **John 3:19**, ESV: "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."

As you read the Word the light gets brighter in your dark heart, as you study the word the light fills in all those little dark corners, and gets brighter thus you have the Intensity part of the formula. I have found that the more I love Jesus, the less I let myself be tempted. I love Jesus because He is the word and I try hard to put the word in my heart. I don't like that phrase "to hide the word in my heart," I want to put it there to share with others and to have it ready and in the forefront to use when I need it. We put it into our heart to give us the light to share, not to keep to ourselves. When you love someone you want to know all you can about that person, loving Jesus is no different, you need to study him and the only place to do that is in the Bible or the Word.

In Closing and summary, if you don't now, plan a time each day where you sit down with the Word of God. Maybe you can only carve out five minutes tomorrow. It's a start. When your body is hungry you stop what you are doing and find something to eat right? What if I told you that your spirit is starving when you neglect to study God's Word.

Three things to remember why you need to trim your wick:

1. Light – signal – the Lord is my light and my salvation – psalm 27:1
2. Light – direction – thy word is a lamp – psalm 119:105
3. Light – pointer – people will see Jesus – Matt 5:16