Lesson 5: The Menorah/Lampstand

Read: Exodus 25:31-40

After washing their hands and feet at the laver, the priests could enter the Holy Place, which was the first room in the tent of the tabernacle. There were three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place: the menorah, the table of showbread and the golden altar of incense.

The menorah, also called the "golden lampstand" or "candlestick," stood at the left side of the Holy Place. It was hammered out of one piece of pure gold. Like for the laver, there were no specific instructions about the size of the menorah, but the fact that it was fashioned out of one piece of pure gold would have limited its size.

The lampstand had a central branch from which three branches extended from each side, forming a total of seven branches. Seven lamps holding olive oil and wicks stood on top of the branches. Each branch looked like that of an almond tree, containing buds, blossoms and flowers.

Discussion:

1. What was the basic function of the lampstand?

2. Read Leviticus 24:1-3. What did God command the priests to do regarding the lamps?

3. Read John 1:9, 8:12 and 12:46. What is Jesus described as? How is the lampstand a picture of Christ?

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4. What is the significance of the lampstand's one main branch and six sub-branches? (Ref. John 15:5, Ephesians 5:8, Matthew 5:14-16)

5. What was the significance of God's commandment to the priests to keep the lamp burning continuously in the context of the last two questions?

6. We will look at two other aspects of the lampstand. How does Jesus fulfill these aspects of the lampstand: it was made entirely of pure gold (not gold plated); it had seven branches?

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