

Lessons From The Tabernacle (10)

The Golden Candlestick

Directly across from the Table of Shewbread in the Holy Place was the Golden Candlestick (Ex. 25:31-39, 37:17-24). The features and function of this interesting and unique item will bring before us pictures and types of the Lord Jesus, in His person and work.

As the name indicates, the candlestick was made of gold. We have noted before that gold reminds us of the deity of the Lord Jesus; the fact that He is God. What is worth noticing here, regarding the candlestick, is that the gold of it was pure gold. It was of the highest quality; no imperfection or impurity was found in it. This reminds us, beloved saint of God, of the absolute purity and perfection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is interesting to note as well, that there were no dimensions given concerning the golden candlestick. As we think of the greatness and glories of our blessed Lord, we know that there is no measure of His divine attributes and virtues. The apostle Paul wrote of Him, *“it pleased the Father in him, should all fullness dwell”*; *in him dwelleth all the fulness of the godhead bodily*” (Col. 1:19, 2:9).

The candlestick was made of *“beaten work”*. Think, dear child of God, of the words of the prophet Isaiah concerning the sufferings of our Lord Jesus on account of our sin, *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement for our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed”* (Isa. 53:5).

It was an item of immense beauty, so precisely made with detailed perfection. With the intricate and exquisite pattern of bowls and flowers throughout, it was truly a glorious sight. The flowers were almonds, the first bud to blossom in the springtime. Thus, we may think of the Lord Jesus in resurrection glory. Every detail of the candlestick brings to our minds every facet and feature of His beauty and glory.

And O, to think beloved child of God, one day soon we shall behold Him as He is, in all the majesty and regal splendour of His glorious person. Job wrote of seeing Him, *“Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another”* (Job 19:27). John reminds us that we shall like Him for we shall see Him as He is (1st Jn. 3:2). Paul tells us that we shall forever be with Him (1st Thess. 4:17).

There was no window in the Holy Place; no natural light shone into the darkness of the sacred sanctuary. The only source of light that illuminated the Holy Place was the golden candlestick. The Lord Jesus is the light of the world (Jn. 8:12). John wrote of Him, *“that was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world”* (Jn. 1:9).

It has been suggested by some that the candlestick consisted of sixty-six pieces. If this were the case, we might think of the Word of God. The psalmist wrote, *“thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”* (Ps. 119:105). Remember too, that the Lord Jesus is Himself the Living Word (Jn. 1:1; Rev. 19:13).

The oil for the lamps of the golden candlestick was pure olive oil beaten, brought by God’s people (Ex. 27:20). While this may bring before us the thought of individual and collective responsibility in testimony, to shine as lights in this world, beloved saint of God (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15), let us think again of our Lord Jesus.

The oil was beaten out and would remind us once again of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus. Oil in the Scriptures often represents the Holy Spirit. The prophet Isaiah wrote concerning the Lord Jesus, *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound”* (Isa. 61:1).

The golden candlestick illuminated all that was in the holy place that pictures the Lord Jesus and His manifold glories and virtues. The Lord Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit to His own, *“He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you”* (Jn. 16:14).

While the golden candlestick speaks expressly of the Lord Jesus, I like to think of the branches that extended from the centre shaft, as Christ in the midst of His people. Another thought is that of the true vine and of the branches. The Lord Jesus said, *“I am the vine, ye are the branches”* (Jn. 15: 5). All of the components, the shaft, the branches, the flowers, the bowls, were made from one piece of gold, reminding us of the unique oneness of Christ and His own. Think again of the words of the Lord Jesus, *“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us”* (Jn. 17:21).

There is much more that can be learned from this unique and beautiful item, dear beloved of the Lord, but I want to think of one final aspect before we leave it. The lighting of the lamps was ordered from evening to morning (Ex. 27:21; Lev. 24:3).

Presently, beloved, we are in the evening, a time of darkness, and the time of His rejection. Soon the morning will be upon us, the glad morning of His coming again, when we shall see Him and be with Him and like Him forever. *“Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of frankincense”* (S.O.S. 4:6).

*Walk in the light, so shalt thou know
That fellowship of love
His Spirit only can bestow,
Who dwells in light above.*