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THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND



Exodus 25:31 -40 "Make a lampstand of pure gold. Make its base and its shaft of hammered gold; its decorative flowers, including buds and petals, are to form one piece with it. 32 Six branches shall extend from its sides, three from each side. 33 Each of the six branches is to have three decorative flowers shaped like almond blossoms with buds and petals. 34 The shaft of the lamp stand is to have four decorative flowers shaped like almond blossoms with buds and petals. 35 There is to be one bud below each of the three pairs of branches. 36 The buds, the branches, and the lampstand are to be a single piece of pure hammered gold. 37 Make seven lamps for the lampstand and set them up so that they shine toward the front. 38 Make its tongs and trays of pure gold. 39 Use seventy-five pounds of pure gold to make the lampstand and all this equipment. 40 Take care to make them according to the plan that I showed you on the mountain. (Good News Bible)

ABIDE IN ME

Parallel to the table was the golden lamp stand (see picture on the previous page). The lamp stand was made and molded with pure gold signifying it is of divine and eternal because gold is the only metal that retains its color and state. The golden lamp stand had seven branches sticking out of the stem, which describes the church (the branches) abiding in Christ (the stem). Jesus explained this in the book of **Revelation Chapter 12 -20**

Revelation 1: 12 – 13 then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lamp stands and in the midst of the lamp stands one like the son of man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Revelations 1: 20b and the seven lamp stands, which you saw, are the seven churches. (Note: -- the seven churches are not literal physical seven churches but the true universal church of God.)

From this glorified image of Christ, Jesus is seen standing in the place of the stem of the lampstand. All these show the relationship between Christ and the church. Those who hear His words and abide in His words, abide in Christ who is the source of our life and light. When we don't abide in him our light is quenched, and I am sure we know what it means to be without light. Jesus said if we do not do His works by walking and abiding in Him we are removed from our place.

Revelations 2: 5 remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place – unless you repent.

From Revelation 2:5 we can discern that the whole world living in ignorance of the truth in the word all have their lamps quenched. Remember what John wrote in John Chapter one? He wrote that in Him (Christ) is light and that light is the life of men. So if we live outside Him we abide in death and can really do nothing. We are beginning to get a clearer picture of why men go through the things they go through. it is because they are cut off from the source of their light.

We must learn to abide in Christ that is to say having our being in him that we may have the light of life. Abiding in Him means partaking of the word and applying it in our lives by manifesting His love to the whole of creation. It also means our living unto to Him so that it is no longer us but the son of God living through us. Before moving to the place where the lamp stand was we had to pass the golden table to feast on the word now we must apply the word in our lives. We abide in Jesus when we abide in His word. Jesus explained further on this relationship while dining with His disciples during and after the Last Supper. (Note the divine coincidence with the ordering of the table and the lamp stand in the holy place)

The Lord Jesus also made reference to a vine and its branches in the book of John, which is similar to the lamp stand and its branches.

[John 15: 1 – 7]

The branches can't blossom and bear fruit if they don't abide in the stem. Water and nutrients from the stem is passed on to all the branches of the vine demonstrating that all the attributes that were displayed in Christ will be passed to us as long as we obey him and abide in him. In abiding in Him we realize that without Him we can do nothing. All faith and power is lost when we do not agree with Him; agreeing with Him restores our faith to the fullness. The branch can not bear fruit without the branches, the branch that is not connected to the stem dies of and is destroyed. So is the man that does not abide in Christ the source of our life. The world is living in pain and torment today because they do not abide in Christ who is the source of their life. John in His epistle said in Him was the light and that light is the same light that lighted every man that comes into this world. The Lord is pleased when we abide in the vine (or stem) because then we can blossom and bear fruits to the glory of the father. When we abide in the Vine the eternal life of the Father in Christ is made available to us, Joy, Peace, Power, health and hope becomes our portion.

THE ALMOND TREE

If you take a closer look at the golden lampstand, you will notice that what we have is a picture of an almond tree blossoming. The shaft of the lampstand had four nodes shaped in the form of flowers from a blossoming almond tree. Each of the branches of the lampstand also had three nodes shaped in the form of flowers from a blossoming tree. God's thoughts in relation to the almond tree are being revealed to us today.

Below are pictures of branches from a blossoming almond tree. The colors of the flowers from almond trees are normally white and pink in color.

Almond tree with flowers



Single Almond flower



The flowers of the almond tree develop in the early spring and are known to be one of the first trees to blossom.

Among the Hebrews it was a symbol of watchfulness due to its early flowering. Because the almond is the first tree to bloom, and passes rapidly through several beautiful and dramatic stages of growth, it is viewed as a symbol of watchfulness. The watchman, who is alert and watchful, arises early to keep watch and is always in the vigilant state that is why the almond is symbolically linked with watchfulness.

Aaron's staff was also made of almond wood (Numbers 17), it miraculously bloomed overnight and bore almonds to validate Aaron's claim to the priesthood when He was challenged by renegades in His time! The message we get from this, is the need to be watchful as we hear truth from God's kingdom. As we hear these truths and walk in them, then we can flourish like the almond tree and there find favor in God's sight, when we remain watchful as Christians we become qualified in God's eyes for elevation into priesthood and power.

To be watchful is to be awake spiritually; it means to be spiritually aware. Those who sleep are dead spiritually not aware of God, themselves or are they aware of God's kingdom and His purposes. [1 Thessalonians 5:5-8]

So as Children of the kingdom we should remain watchful as we receive His word. Abiding in Him points to alertness in the spirit and awareness of God and His ever loving presence.

THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD

Viewing the tabernacle from another angle, symbolically speaking the seven lamps represents the seven spirits of God which God has sent for the purpose of aiding mankind into glory. This is the most common of the interpretations of the Golden lampstand. The seven spirits of God are mentioned in the Book of revelations, when John had a vision of the throne of God. [**Revelations 4:4-6**]

In the Old Testament, God commanded that the lamps on the stand had to be fed continually with pure oil from beaten olives; the lamps had to be continually burning as long as the Tabernacle was functioning. [**EXODUS 27:20-21**]

The priest had to keep the lamp burning continuously before the Lord; if they didn't do this it would mean the covenant was broken. The High priest by the name Eli, whom God rejected experienced the light of the lamps of the tabernacle go off during His time [**1Samuel 3:2**]. The Holy Spirit was careful to put this in the bible so that those who have ears would hear and understand. The same night the light went out, God called Samuel and said He will judge the house of Eli and establish Him in His place. The house of Eli was eventually cast out of the priesthood without remedy because they did not keep the covenant of God.

God is saying that we have to keep the spirit of God burning in us; we have to apply the teachings by the spirit to our lives. To be continuously approved of the Lord the spirit of God has to continually burn in our lives.

[1 Thessalonians 5:15-22]

To keep the fire burning we have to continuously walk in the spirit; we have to walk after the revelation knowledge the Holy Spirit gives us. When we walk contrary to the spirit by walking in the flesh,

we gradually quench the spirit, this leads to death and judgment. If we walk contrary to God's spirit we are put away like the priesthood of Eli. Paul once wrote that He is careful to buffet the flesh so that after preaching to many people, He won't become a cast away.

THE BURNING BUSH

Let us open our eyes spiritually to view a full picture of the almond tree (BELOW). Remember that the golden lampstand is actually an image of an almond tree with seven branches. There is a message hidden here, know that God would have used an apple tree or an olive tree if He wanted as the design for the lampstand features but He did not. If you watch the pictures of the almond trees in full bloom, we see an image of a tree that is lighted up by fire. In other words what we see is a tree or bush burning with fire.

An almond tree flourishing (Like a burning bush)



What we have here is a picture of the burning bush which in actuality is Christ. Somebody might ask how that can be Christ. All these are shadows of the real things to come, Moses standing before the burning bush was a type of mortal man of this world being inaugurated into a walk with God. From the moment Moses saw and heard the voice saying "I AM", He was grafted into that tree and

therefore could see God and manifest the power of God in delivering the people of God from bondage. That voice that says "I AM" is actually the voice of the Father speaking through His son Christ. This voice saying "I AM" is seen throughout the ministry of Jesus. **[John 8:57-59], [Revelation 1:8]**

From all this, can we now see why the body of Moses was never found, in fact He appeared with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration. Moses was a shadow of the true son's of God who ascend to that still place and we are grafted into the body of Christ. These are the same ones who hear the voice of the "I AM"; they also live on behalf of that voice. We become part of that burning bush being its branches, as Moses lived from that moment onwards unto the Lord so also do we who hear the voice from the burning bush live on behalf of the Father.

Moses was a shadow of Sons that God will raise up in these last days to set free those in Bondage to the powers of the Devil. The sons of God will do exactly what Moses did throughout His forty years in ministry. No power of the devil will be able to withstand these majestic ones that God is raising up to perform this task. This body of people are the ones who appear with Christ in Glory to gather the lost sheep of God. I am sure all of us want to be part of that body of sons that will deliver creation from the bondages of corruption.

To get to that burning bush we should remember the works of faith by Moses. He left the riches of royalty in Egypt, foreseeing greater riches in God. He passes 40 years in the wilderness which signifies a period of trial, temptations and perseverance in the faith. He liberated the well so that the seven daughters of Jethro who are indeed a shadow of the church, had access to water for their use and for their flocks **[EXODUS 3:16--22]**. This is a type of service of ministry towards the people of God. The well talks about the deep endless resources of Christ which was blocked by lies of the world, lies from religion, lies from family structure and all lies under the heavens that deny the true knowledge of God. When you set out to release these resources to God's people you will be blessed, remember the least you do unto them you do also to Christ. "If you

give a cup of water out of that well to my people in My Name, you will not lose your reward”.

The reward we get from the Lord after persevering in the faith is resurrection from the dead unto eternal life, which is the favor of Him that dwelt in the bush [**Deuteronomy 33:16**]]. Moses was also a shepherd; He left the majesty of His Royalty in Egypt to become a Shepherd of sheep. Those who leave all to care and lead the souls of men to life will not lose their reward. Moses separated Himself from the world; He was alone on the mountain of Horeb and turned aside to view the burning bush [**EXODUS 3:1-6**]. This talks of losing our lives in this world and watching out in the spirit for that glorious hope that is in God. The hustle and bustle of this life will not allow us to see that burning bush, we must come to the quiet, and we must leave the cares of this life. Every form of distraction has to be taken away from our view if we truly desire to see that bush that burns without being consumed. Christians should watch out in the spirit after the revelation of God to see that bush that burns so that we also can become the same, being now grafted into that tree.

Jesus gave a parable on watching and the reward that accompanies it.

PARABLE OF THE NIGHT WATCHES

Luke 12:35-48 35 "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. 38 And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 40 Therefore you also

be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." 41 Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?" 42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? 43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. 45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more

When Jesus says let your waist be girded and your lamps burning, He is talking to we who profess to know Him and are called by His name. He means we should be awake and alert in the spirit. Those whose waist are not girded with a belt and whose lamps are not burning are those who sleep. We find ourselves in a world that is void of God's knowledge; the world is of the night. The spirit of God who is the spirit of light or truth comes to show us the way by lightening our eyes. God is saying we should keep ourselves in His word and love by continually living by His spirit. Those who are faithful to walk in the spirit, doing the works of the spirit will be exalted in due season. The faithful are like the servant that continues on in the will of His master in Patience. And we know His will is that we walk in love, always revealing the truth. We have to progress in God as He supplies us with His spirit, we have to progress in love, in knowledge, in patience, in brotherly kindness etc if we are to reap glory in God. As His revelation unfolds in us we ought to walk in it otherwise we go back to sleep with the rest of the world.

In the things of God it is either yes or no, cold or Hot, for me or against me, you can not be lukewarm or in between. If we do not walk by the revelation of the spirit and grow in love, we slide into the realm of drunkenness which is of the night. These are the category of people like the unfaithful servant who receive the word and do not keep it.

[1 Thessalonians 5:4] We ought to be filled with the spirit of God not the spirit of the world. **[Ephesians 5:15-21]**

Strong alcoholic wine is generated by fermentation of the original juice that is gotten from the vine. The same effect of yeast on bread is seen in wine whereby it is transformed from that original pure state. Spiritually speaking, the yeast and its fermentation effect points to adulteration of the pure word of God. Carnality as we see it, is the spirit of this world, it points to this strong drink. This spirit breeds cruelty, pride and stumbling. Just observe the ways of a drunken person that is exactly how we walk when we are under the influence of the spirit of this world.

When we walk unworthily by refusing the counsel of God's spirit, pride, hatred and every evil thing begins to set in.

When we refuse to keep ourselves in the Word, even after knowing the truth fully, all we can expect is grievous consequences because we reject the truth. This judgment can be extremely severe and goes forth according to the knowledge you have received. That is why He says to Him much is given much is expected. The more we hear from God the higher the standards expected from us. God does not come down to punish anyone who fails to keep Himself in the knowledge of Christ. The conscience is the one that will lead you into the depth of Sorrow and anguish. No one can hear the good word of God and expect to live a life in ignorance, the conscious will not give you rest. That condemnation that will arise from within will make living difficult because that faith in you begins to diminish so that things do not function for you.

When the rod of judgment comes to punish the unfaithful it can cast you down into a state of condemnation that would even make you worst that your first state. Torment sets in because of the

rebellion against God; we are quick to warn brethren to avoid this sort of a thing, because it can be devastating.

The judgment of God is not what we heard in traditional Christian teachings which say a big Throne is set with God seated on it. When we die, we stand before this physical Throne and account for all the evil we have done. Those are all fables of religion and men. The truth of God's judgment is that we automatically stand before the Judgment seat when we hear the truth. If we obey the truth and abide by it we live and enter into eternal favor; if we reject the truth dying we die spiritually and we suffer torment at His invisible presence.

The only way we can escape the stripes or the rod or the judgment is to abide and grow in the love of Christ. **[1John 4:17-18]**

The faithful and wise servants are those servants who have heard the truth and kept the word of the Lord; these are those who have washed the feet of saints, fed the hungry, comforted the weak, broken yokes, and covered the naked and done works that please the master. The Lord has a reward for these faithful ones; He exalts them into a realm of all power and authority. Authority is given over to them so that they rule over all. Just like Aaron who had the priesthood right to approach God because His rod blossomed with almonds flowers so also those worthy to Approach the Lord God are those who keep watch in the faith doing the things that please God.

The lampstand shows a picture of the Church of God abiding in Christ and illuminated by the spirit of God. To possess all this qualities we have to be hearers and doers of the word. Doing the word brings about the much desired transformation into Christ. Being transformed or conformed into the likeness of Christ is the only thing that pleases God. So hang tight in the faith.