

Winter Conference 2023/2024

The Golden Lampstands

Message One

The Lampstands are the Churches

I. John saw churches as lampstands, “The seven lampstands are the seven churches”

¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, ¹¹saying, “Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” ¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. Revelation 1:10–13

²⁰“As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. Revelation 1:20

II. The testimony of the church should shine forth to believers and unbelievers

⁶You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 1 Thessalonians 1:6–8

III. Believers should display their light, just as a lamp should be put on a lampstand

a. A light is not put under a basket, a bed, nor away in the cellar. A container is not put over the lamp.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16

²¹*And He was saying to them, "A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not brought to be put on the lampstand? Mark 4:21*

¹⁶*"Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light. Luke 8:16*

³³*"No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. Luke 11:33*

b. A lampstand allows the light to shine.

c. People who see the shining lampstand will see your good works and glorify your Father

IV. The church is the household of God, the pillar of the truth, a dwelling of God in spirit, which bears a testimony to the people on earth.

¹⁵*but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15*

²¹*in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:21–22*

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Message Two

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- I. **The lampstand in Exodus, a picture of God's work producing a shining testimony**
 - a. **With six branches and a central shaft**
 - b. **With almond bulbs and flowers**
 - c. **Shaped like an almond tree**
 - i. **Full of life**
 - ii. **Full of the authority of life**

³¹"Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand and its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. ³²"Six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side. ³³"Three cups shall be shaped like almond blossoms in the one branch, a bulb and a flower, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms in the other branch, a bulb and a flower—so for six branches going out from the lampstand; ³⁴and in the lampstand four cups shaped like almond blossoms, its bulbs and its flowers. ³⁵"A bulb shall be under the first pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb under the second pair of branches coming out of it, and a bulb under the third pair of branches coming out of it, for the six branches coming out of the lampstand. Exodus 25:31-35

d. **Hammered work of one piece**

³⁶"Their bulbs and their branches shall be of one piece with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold. Exodus 25:36

²²Their bulbs and their branches were of one piece with it; the whole of it was a single hammered work of pure gold. Exodus 37:22

e. **The seven lamps shed light on the space in front of the lampstand**

³⁷"Then you shall make its lamps seven in number; and they shall mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it. Exodus 25:37

f. God's divine work is to care for the shining of the lights

³⁸*"Its snuffers and their trays shall be of pure gold. ³⁹"It shall be made from a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. ⁴⁰"See that you make them after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain. Exodus 25:31–40*

g. The lampstand is a symbol of the shining testimony of the Father, Son, and Spirit. The oil points to the Spirit, the gold points to the divine nature of the Father, and the shape points to the Son.

II. The lampstand is a work of the Spirit where the oil is supplied by the sons of oil and by the people

a. The lampstand, the bowl, and the two olive trees

¹*Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and roused me, as a man who is awakened from his sleep. ²He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; ³also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side." Zechariah 4:1-3*

b. The lampstand and trees point to the work of the Spirit

⁴*Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me saying, "What are these, my lord?" ⁵So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." ⁶Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. Zechariah 4:4-6*

c. The oil for the lamps is supplied by the sons of oil, like the oil for the lampstand in Exodus is supplied by the people of Israel

¹¹*Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?" ¹²And I answered the second time and said to him, "What are the two olive branches which are beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden oil from themselves?" ¹³So he answered me, saying, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." ¹⁴Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth." Zechariah 4:11–14*

¹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you clear oil from beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. ³“Outside the veil of testimony in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the LORD continually; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations. ⁴“He shall keep the lamps in order on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD continually. Leviticus 24:1–4

d. The lampstand supplied by oil and overcome every difficulty and “mountain”

⁷“What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” ’ ” ⁸Also the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁹“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ¹⁰“For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel—these are the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth.” Zechariah 4:7-10

III. The gathering of God’s people should be a testimony of God’s presence and a testimony of the dwelling of God in spirit

²³Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? ²⁴But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; ²⁵the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you. 1 Corinthians 14:23–25

²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:21–22