

~LAMPSTAND (684)

[Hebrew, *menoh-rah'*, Greek, *ly-khni'a*]

.. In The Tabernacle

.. Design

.. Use

.. In The Temples

.. Temple Rebuilt By Zerubbabel

.. Temple Rebuilt By Herod

.. Figurative Use

- A stand or support for an oil-burning lamp or lamps. Though mentioning lampstands in homes and other buildings
- Please, let us make a little roof chamber on the wall and put there for him a couch and a table and a chair and a **lampstand**, and it must occur that whenever he comes in to us he can turn aside there. (2 Kings 4:10)
- At that moment the fingers of a man's hand came forth and were writing in front of the **lampstand** upon the plaster of the wall of the palace of the king, and the king was beholding the back of the hand that was writing. (Daniel 5:5)
- No one, after lighting a **lamp**, covers it with a vessel or puts it underneath a bed, but he puts it on a **lampstand**, that those stepping in may behold the light. (Luke 8:16)
- After lighting a **lamp**, a person puts it, not in a vault nor under a measuring basket, but upon the **lampstand**, that those stepping in may behold the light. (Luke 11:33)
- The Bible's emphasis is primarily on the **lampstands** associated with true worship.

.. In The Tabernacle

- Yehowah directed Moses in vision to make for use in the tabernacle a **lampstand** Hebrew, *menoh-rah'*, Greek, *ly-khni'a* of pure gold, of hammered work. Together with its **lamps** and utensils it was to weigh one talent.
- And you must make a **lampstand** of pure gold. Of hammered

work the lampstand is to be made. Its base, its branches, its cups, its knobs and its blossoms are to proceed out from it. (**Exodus 25:31**)

- Of a talent of pure gold he should make it with all these utensils of it. (**Exodus 25:39**)
- And see that you make them after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. (**Exodus 25:40**)
- Then he made the **lampstand** of pure gold. Of hammered work he made the **lampstand**. Its sides and its branches, its cups, its knobs and its blossoms proceeded out of it. (**Exodus 37:17**)
- Of a talent of pure gold he made it and all its utensils. (**Exodus 37:24**)
- Now this was the workmanship of the **lampstand**. It was hammered work of gold. Up to its sides and up to its blossoms it was hammered work. According to the vision that Yehowah had shown Moses, so he had made the **lampstand**. (**Numbers 8:4**)
- For there was constructed a first tent compartment in which were the **lampstand** and also the table and the display of the loaves, and it is called, the Holy Place. (**Hebrews 9:2**)
- This would equal about 34 kilograms (92 pounds troy), with a value, in modern terms, of \$385,350.

.. Design

- This luminary for the Holy Place, the anterior compartment of the tabernacle
- For there was constructed a first tent compartment in which were the **lampstand** and also the table and the display of the loaves, and it is called, the Holy Place. (**Hebrews 9:2**)
- Was composed of a central stem, with six branches. These branches curved upward from opposite sides of the main shaft. The central shaft, or stem, was decorated with four sculptured cups shaped like almond flowers, with knobs and flower blossoms alternating.

- The kind of flower represented in the flower blossoms is not certain, the **Hebrew** word used can mean any flower. The branches each had three cups, with knobs and flowers alternating.
- The description may indicate that the knobs on the central stem came at the point where the branches joined the stem. **Lamps** burning fine beaten olive oil were placed at the top of the main stem and on the end of each branch. Accessories consisted of snuffers, fire holders, and oil vessels.
- And you must make a **lampstand** of pure gold. Of hammered work the **lampstand** is to be made. Its base, its branches, its cups, its knobs and its blossoms are to proceed out from it. (**Exodus 25:31**)
- And six branches are running out from its sides, three branches of the **lampstand** from its one side and three branches of the **lampstand** from its other side. (**Exodus 25:32**)
- Three cups shaped like flowers of almond are on the one set of branches, with knobs and blossoms alternating, and three cups shaped like flowers of almond on the other set of branches, with knobs and blossoms alternating. This is the way it is with the six branches running out from the **lampstand**. (**Exodus 25:33**)
- And on the **lampstand** are four cups shaped like flowers of almond, with its knobs and its blossoms alternating. (**Exodus 25:34**)
- And the knob under two branches is out of it and the knob under the two other branches is out of it and the knob under two more branches is out of it, for the six branches running out from the **lampstand**. (**Exodus 25:35**)
- Their knobs and their branches are to proceed out from it. All of it is one piece of hammered work, of pure gold. (**Exodus 25:36**)
- And you must make seven lamps for it, and the lamps must be lit up, and they must shine upon the area in front of it. (**Exodus 25:37**)
- And its snuffers and its fire holders are of pure gold. (**Exodus 25:38**)

- And six branches were running out from its sides, three branches of the **lampstand** out from its one side and three branches of the **lampstand** out from its other side. (**Exodus 37:18**)
- Three cups shaped like flowers of almond were on the one set of branches, with knobs and blossoms alternating, and three cups shaped like flowers of almond were on the other set of branches, with knobs and blossoms alternating. That is the way it was for the six branches running out from the **lampstand**. (**Exodus 37:19**)
- And on the **lampstand** there were four cups shaped like flowers of almond, with its knobs and its blossoms alternating. (**Exodus 37:20**)
- And the knob under two branches was out of it, and the knob under two other branches was out of it, and the knob under two more branches was out of it, for the six branches running out from the **lampstand**. (**Exodus 37:21**)
- Their knobs and their branches proceeded out from it. All of it was one piece of hammered work, of pure gold. (**Exodus 37:2**)
- Then he made its seven lamps and its snuffers and its fire holders out of pure gold. (**Exodus 37:23**)
- Command the sons of Israel that they get for you pure, beaten olive oil for the luminary, to light up the **lamp** constantly. (**Leviticus 24:2**)
- And they must take a cloth of blue and cover the **lampstand** of the luminary and its **lamps** and its snuffers and its fire holders and all its vessels for oil with which they regularly minister to it. (**Numbers 4:9**)
- The actual construction of the **lampstand** was done under the oversight of Bezalel of the tribe of Judah and Oholiab of the tribe of Dan.
- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Exodus 31:1**)
- See, I do call by name Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. (**Exodus 31:2**)

- **And I shall fill him with the spirit of God in wisdom and in understanding and in knowledge and in every kind of craftsmanship. (Exodus 31:3)**
- **For designing devices, for working in gold and silver and copper. (Exodus 31:4)**
- **And in working of stones to set them and in working of wood to make products of every kind. (Exodus 31:5)**
- **As for me, look! I do put with him Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan, and in the heart of everyone wise of heart I do put wisdom, that they may indeed make everything I have commanded you. (Exodus 31:6)**
- **The tent of meeting and the Ark for the testimony and the cover that is upon it, and all the utensils of the tent. (Exodus 31:7)**
- **And the table and its utensils, and the lampstand of pure gold and all its utensils, and the altar of incense. (Exodus 31:8)**
- **And the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin and its stand. (Exodus 31:9)**
- **And the garments of knitted work and the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons for acting as priests. (Exodus 31:10)**
- **And the anointing oil and the perfumed incense for the sanctuary. According to everything I have commanded you they will do. (Exodus 31:11)**
- **Then Moses said to the sons of Israel; See, Yehowah has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. (Exodus 35:30)**
- **And he proceeded to fill him with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in every sort of craftsmanship (Exodus 35:31)**
- **And for designing devices, for working in gold and silver and copper. (Exodus 35:32)**
- **And in working of stones to set them and in working of wood to**

make ingenious products of every sort. ([Exodus 35:33](#))

- And he has put it into his heart that he should teach, he and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. ([Exodus 35:34](#))
- He has filled them with wisdom of heart to do all the work of a craftsman and an embroiderer and of a weaver in blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple, in coccus scarlet material and fine linen, and of a loom worker, men doing every sort of work and designing devices. ([Exodus 35:35](#))
- These men were doubtless good craftsmen, possibly learning the trade while slaves in Egypt. But Yehowah now put his spirit upon them so that the work could be perfectly done, exactly according to the pattern revealed and spoken to Moses.
- According to all that I am showing you as the pattern of the tabernacle and pattern of all its furnishings, that is the way you are to make it. ([Exodus 25:9](#))
- And see that you make them after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. ([Exodus 25:40](#))
- And Moses got to see all the work, and, look! They had done it just as Yehowah had commanded. That was the way they had done. Consequently Moses blessed them. ([Exodus 39:43](#))
- And Moses proceeded to do according to all that Yehowah had commanded him. He did just so. ([Exodus 40:16](#))

.. Use

- Moses placed the **lampstand** in the tent of meeting in front of the table, on the side of the tabernacle to the south. Evidently it was parallel with the south side of the tent, left-hand side as one entered, opposite the table of showbread. The light shone on the area in front of the **lampstand**, thus illuminating the Holy Place, which contained also the golden altar of incense.
- Next he put the table in the tent of meeting on the side of the tabernacle to the north outside the curtain. ([Exodus 40:22](#))
- And he arranged the row of bread upon it before Yehowah, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. ([Exodus 40:23](#))

- Then he placed the **lampstand** in the tent of meeting in front of the table, on the side of the tabernacle to the south. (**Exodus 40:24**)
- He then lit up the lamps before Yehowah, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Exodus 40:25**)
- He next placed the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the curtain. (**Exodus 40:26**)
- Speak to Aaron, and you must say to him; Whenever you light up the lamps, the seven lamps should shine on the area in front of the **lampstand**. (**Numbers 8:2**)
- And Aaron began to do so. He lit up its lamps for the area in front of the **lampstand**, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Numbers 8:3**)
- At the time Moses completed setting up the tabernacle, on **Nisan 1,1512 B.C.E**, he followed Yehowah's instructions to light the lamps.
- Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (**Exodus 40:1**)
- On the day of the first month, on the first of the month, you are to set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. (**Exodus 40:2**)
- And you must bring the table in and set its arrangement in order, and you must bring in the **lampstand** and light up its lamps. (**Exodus 40:4**)
- He then lit up the lamps before Yehowah, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Exodus 40:25**)
- Later on, Aaron did so;
- And Aaron began to do so. He lit up its **lamps** for the area in front of the **lampstand**, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Numbers 8:3**)
- And thereafter he, and future High Priests, set the **lampstand** in order from evening to morning before Yehowah constantly.
- Outside the curtain of the Testimony in the tent of meeting Aaron

- should set it in order from evening to morning before Yehowah constantly. It is a statute to time indefinite during your generations. (**Leviticus 24:3**)
- Upon the **lampstand** of pure gold he should set the lamps in order before Yehowah constantly. (**Leviticus 24:4**)
 - When Aaron dressed the **lamps** morning by morning and when he lit them between the two evenings, he also offered incense on the golden altar.
 - And you must make an altar as a place for burning incense, out of acacia wood you will make it. (**Exodus 30:1**)
 - And Aaron must make perfumed incense smoke upon it. Morning by morning, when he dresses the lamps, he will make it smoke. (**Exodus 30:7**)
 - And when Aaron lights up the lamps between the two evenings, he will make it smoke. It is an incense constantly before Yehowah during your generations. (**Exodus 30:8**)
 - The **lampstand**, with the other tabernacle utensils, was transported during the wilderness journey by the Kohathite family of the tribe of Levi.
 - First, however, the priests had to cover the articles, because, as Yehowah warned, non-priestly persons must not come in to see the holy things for the least moment of time, and so they have to die.
 - The **lampstand** with its accessories was covered with a blue cloth and then put into a covering of sealskin and put onto a bar for carrying.
 - This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. It is something most holy. (**Numbers 4:4**)
 - And they must take a cloth of blue and cover the **lampstand** of the luminary and its lamps and its snuffers and its fire holders and all its vessels for oil with which they regularly minister to it. (**Numbers 4:9**)
 - And they must put it and all its utensils into a covering of sealskins and put it upon a bar. (**Numbers 4:10**)

- And Aaron and his sons must finish covering the holy place and all the utensils of the holy place when the camp is departing, and after that the sons of Kohath will come in to carry them, but they must not touch the holy place so that they have to die. These things are the load of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 4:15**)
- But do this for them that they may indeed keep alive and may not die for their approaching the most holy things. Aaron and his sons will come in, and they must assign them each one to his service and to his load. (**Numbers 4:19**)
- And they must not come in to see the holy things for the least moment of time, and so they have to die. (**Numbers 4:20**)
- In the account relating King David's bringing the ark of the covenant to Mount Zion, there is no mention of the **lampstand**. Evidently it remained in the tabernacle in the various locations where the tabernacle came to be situated.

·· In The Temples

- David gave to Solomon the architectural plans for the temple, which plans he had received by inspiration. These included directions for **lampstands** of gold and lampstands of silver.
- And David proceeded to give Solomon his son the architectural plan of the porch and of its houses and its storerooms and its roof chambers and its dark inner rooms and the house of the propitiatory cover. (**1 Chronicles 28:11**)
- Even the architectural plan of everything that had come to be with him by inspiration for the courtyards of Yehowah's house and for all the dining rooms all around, for the treasures of the house of the true God and for the treasures of the things made holy. (**1 Chronicles 28:12**)
- And the weight for the **lampstands** of gold and their **lamps** of gold, by weight of the different **lampstands** and their **lamps**, and for the **lampstands** of silver by weight for the **lampstand** and its **lamps** according to the service of the different **lampstands**. (**1 Chronicles 28:15**)
- He gave insight for the entire thing in writing from the hand of

Yehowah upon me, even for all the works of the architectural plan. ([1 Chronicles 28:19](#))

- There were ten golden **lampstands**, and they were placed five to the right and five to the left, or five on the south side and five on the north side as one faced east, in the Holy of the temple.
- And Solomon gradually made all the utensils that pertained to the house of Yehowah, the altar of gold and the table on which was the showbread, of gold. ([1 Kings 7:48](#))
- And the **lampstands**, five to the right and five to the left before the innermost room, of pure gold, and the blossoms and the lamps and the snuffers, of gold. ([1 Kings 7:49](#))
- And the **lampstands** and their **lamps** of pure gold, to light them up before the innermost room according to the rule. ([2 Chronicles 4:20](#))
- All ten of these were of the same plan.
- He then made **lampstands** of gold, ten of them of the same plan, and put them in the temple, five to the right and five to the left. ([2 Chronicles 4:7](#))
- They were perhaps much larger than the one that had been in the tabernacle, commensurate with the increased dimensions of the temple and its other furnishings, such as the molten sea.
- And these things Solomon laid as a foundation for building the house of the true God, the length in cubits by the former measurement being sixty cubits, and the width twenty cubits. ([2 Chronicles 3:3](#))
- And the porch that was in front of the length was twenty cubits in front of the width of the house, and its height was a hundred and twenty, and he proceeded to overlay it inside with pure gold. ([2 Chronicles 3:4](#))
- And he proceeded to make the molten sea ten cubits from its one brim to its other brim, circular all around, and its height was five cubits, and it took a line of thirty cubits to circle all around it. ([1 Kings 7:23](#))

- And there were gourd-shaped ornaments down below its brim all around, encircling it, ten in a cubit, enclosing the sea all around, with two rows of the gourd-shaped ornaments cast in its casting. (1 Kings 7:24)
- It was standing upon twelve bulls, three facing north, and three facing west, and three facing south, and three facing east, and the sea was above upon them, and all their hind parts were toward the center. (1 Kings 7:25)
- And its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was like the workmanship of the brim of a cup, a lily blossom. Two thousand bath measures were what it would contain. (1 Kings 7:26)
- The silver **lampstands** were undoubtedly used in courtyards or rooms other than the Holy and the Most Holy, for the furnishings of these two rooms were of gold. As in the tabernacle, the lamps of the golden lampstands were lighted up evening by evening, constantly.
- And they are making burnt offerings smoke to Yehowah morning by morning and evening by evening and also perfumed incense, and the layers of bread are upon the table of pure gold, and there are the golden **lampstand** and its lamps to light up evening by evening, because we are keeping the obligation to Yehowah our God, but you yourselves have left him. (2 Chronicles 13:11)
- When the temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 607 B.C.E, the **lampstands** were among the gold and silver items taken from the house of Yehowah.
- And the basins and the fire holders and the bowls and the cans and the **lampstands** and the cups and the bowls that were of genuine gold, and those that were of genuine silver, the chief of the bodyguard took. (Jeremiah 52:19)

•• Temple Rebuilt By Zerubbabel

- The Scriptures provide no information about **lampstands** in the temple rebuilt by Zerubbabel. However, Josephus says that: **Antiochus or Epiphanes, stripped the temple, carrying off the golden lampstands.** [Jewish Antiquities, XII, 250, v, 4] The Apocryphal book of Maccabees mentions a **lamp-stand** being removed, necessitating the making of a new one. [1 Maccabees 1:21-23][1 Maccabees 49,50] JB

• Temple Rebuilt By Herod

- The magnificence of the temple rebuilt by Herod would give basis for assuming that this temple must also have contained **lampstands** equal in beauty and costliness to those in Solomon's temple. We have no mention of them in the Scriptures, however.

- Evidence of such a **lampstand** is found in its mention by Josephus and its representation on a bas-relief in an interior vault of the triumphal Arch of Titus in Rome.

- On this arch are depicted certain items taken from Jerusalem when it was destroyed by the Romans in **70 C.E.** Josephus claimed to have been an eyewitness of this triumphal procession of Emperor Vespasian and his son Titus.

- Josephus speaks of the procession carrying a **lampstand**, likewise made of gold, but constructed on a different pattern from those which we use in ordinary life.

- Affixed to a pedestal was a central shaft, from which there extended slender branches, arranged trident-fashion, a wrought **lamp** being attached to the extremity of each branch, of these there were seven. [The Jewish War, VII, 148,149, v, 5]

- No one can say for certain today whether the **lampstand** depicted on the Arch of Titus looks exactly the same as the original from the temple in Jerusalem.

- Differences in opinion concern mainly the form of the base, made up of two parallel polygonal cases, the smaller one above the larger. One viewpoint is that the Roman representation on the arch is accurate but that Herod himself had changed its design from the traditional Jewish form of a triangular, or tripod, base in a westernizing campaign to please the Romans.

- Other scholars disagree that the representation is exact. Decorative panels on the base display eagles and sea monsters, which they cite as an apparent violation of the second commandment.

- Some conclude that the original temple **lampstand** stood on three legs, basing this in part on the numerous representations of the lampstand from different parts of Europe and the Middle East dating

from the **Third** to the **Sixth Centuries C.E.** that show a tripod base, a few with animal feet.

- The oldest representation of the lampstand appears on coins of Antigonus II, who reigned **40 B.C.E.** through **37 B.C.E.** Though not well preserved, one specimen seems to indicate that the base consisted of a plate with feet.
- In **1969 C.E.**, a representation of the temple lampstand was found incised in plaster in a house excavated in the old city of Jerusalem.
- The schematic drawing indicates seven branches and a triangular base, all ornamented with knobs separated by two parallel lines. In the Tomb of Jason, discovered in Jerusalem in **1956 C.E.** and dated to the beginning of the **First Century B.C.E.**, archaeologists found designs of a seven-branched **lampstand** scratched into plaster. The lower sections seem to be stuck into a box or stand.
- Thus, on the basis of these archaeological findings, some object to the appearance of the base of the **lampstand** on the Arch of Titus and suggest among other possibilities that the carvings are a Roman artist's conception influenced by Jewish designs familiar to him from other sources.

•• Figurative Use

- The prophet Zechariah saw in vision an unusual golden **lampstand**. As with the **lampstand** prepared for the tabernacle, it had seven **lamps**, but these **lamps** had seven pipes, which scholars understand in a distributive sense to mean a pipe to each **lamp**.
- Also, on top of the lampstand there was a bowl. Apparently a continuous supply of oil was provided for the lamps through the pipes leading to them. The oil evidently came from the two olive trees the prophet saw alongside the lampstand.
- Then he said to me; What are you seeing? So I said; I have seen, and, look! There is a **lampstand**, all of it of gold, with a bowl on top of it. And its seven **lamps** are upon it, even seven, and the **lamps** that are at the top of it have seven pipes.
(**Zechariah 4:2**)
- And there are two olive trees alongside it, one on the right side of the bowl and one on its left side. (**Zechariah 4:3**)

- Then I answered the second time and said to him; What are the two bunches of twigs of the olive trees that, by means of the two golden tubes, are pouring forth from within themselves the golden liquid? ([Zechariah 4:12](#))
- Yehowah God, through the glorified Jesus Christ, gave to the apostle John a vision in which he saw, seven golden **lampstands**, and in the midst of the **lampstands** someone like a son of man. This one, whose description reveals him to be Jesus Christ, explained to John that the **lampstands** meant seven congregations.
- A revelation by Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show his slaves the things that must shortly take place. And he sent forth his angel and presented it in signs through him to his slave John. ([Revelation 1:1](#))
- And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me, and, having turned, I saw seven golden **lampstands**. ([Revelation 1:12](#))
- And in the midst of the **lampstands** someone like a son of man, clothed with a garment that reached down to the feet, and girded at the breasts with a golden girdle. ([Revelation 1:13](#))
- As for the sacred secret of the seven stars that you saw upon my right hand, and of the seven golden **lampstands**. The seven stars mean the angels of the seven congregations, and the seven lampstands mean seven congregations. ([Revelation 1:20](#))
- These visionary **lampstands** were probably like the one that lighted the tabernacle so that the priests could perform their duties there. The use of such to represent congregations is in harmony with Jesus words to those who are dedicated servants of God. You are the light of the world.
- You are the light of the world. A city cannot be hid when situated upon a mountain ([Matthew 5:14](#))
- As the One who walks in the midst of the seven golden **lampstands**, he oversees all their activity as lightbearers.
- To the angel of the congregation in Ephesus write. These are the things that he says who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks in the midst of the seven golden **lampstands**.

(Revelation 2:1)

- In counseling the congregation at Ephesus, Christ warned that he would remove the **lampstand** from its place, unless they repented. This would doubtless mean that they would no longer be used to shed the light of truth in that area, but that their light would go out.
- To the angel of the congregation in Ephesus write. These are the things that he says who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks in the midst of the seven golden **lampstands**.
(Revelation 2:1)
- I know your deeds, and your labor and endurance, and that you cannot bear bad men, and that you put those to the test who say they are apostles, but they are not, and you found them liars.
(Revelation 2:2)
- You are also showing endurance, and you have borne up for my names sake and have not grown weary. (Revelation 2:3)
- Nevertheless, I hold this against you, that you have left the love you had at first. (Revelation 2:4)
- Therefore remember from what you have fallen, and repent and do the former deeds. If you do not, I am coming to you, and I will remove your **lampstand** from its place, unless you repent.
(Revelation 2:5)
- The lamp of the body is the eye. If, then, your eye is simple, your whole body will be bright. (Matthew 6:22)
- But if your eye is wicked, your whole body will be dark. If in reality the light that is in you is darkness, how great that darkness is! (Matthew 6:23)
- The final mention of **lampstands** in the Bible bears certain similarities to Zechariah's vision. Two witnesses who were to prophesy in sackcloth were said to be symbolized by the two olive trees and the two **lampstands**.
- And I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days dressed in sackcloth. (Revelation 11:3)
- These are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two

lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth.
(**Revelation 11:4**)

- Jewish portrayals of the temple **lampstand**, on a column pillar at the right, on a synagogue floor above, have a base design very different from what is shown on the Arch of Titus.