

~LAMP (531)

[Hebrew, *ner*, Greek, *ly'khnos*]

- Sanctuary Use
- Yehowah A Lamp And Source Of Light
- Jesus Christ
- Kings Of The Line Of David
- God's Word
- God's Servants
- Other Figurative Uses

• A vessel used to produce artificial light. It has a wick for burning flammable liquids such as oil, the wick drawing up the fluid by capillary attraction to feed the flame. Wicks were made of flax

• No crushed reed will he break, and as for a dim flaxen wick, he will not extinguish it. In trueness he will bring forth justice. (Isaiah 42:3)

• The One bringing forth the war chariot and the horse, the military force and the strong ones at the same time. They will lie down. They will not get up. They will certainly be extinguished. Like a flaxen wick they must be put out. (Isaiah 43:17)

• Peeled rush, or hemp. Olive oil was the fluid generally burned in ancient lamps.

• As for you, you are to command the sons of Israel that they get for you pure, beaten olive oil for the luminary, in order to light up the lamps constantly. (Exodus 27:20)

• Though oil from the terebinth tree was also used.

• The five discreet virgins of Jesus illustration each had a lamp and a receptacle containing oil.

• Then the kingdom of the heavens will become like ten virgins that took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. (Matthew 25:1)

• Five of them were foolish, and five were discreet. (Matthew 25:2)

• For the foolish took their lamps but took no oil with them.

(Matthew 25:3)

- Whereas the discreet took oil in their receptacles with their **lamps**. (Matthew 25:4)
- Those who came to arrest Jesus were also carrying **lamps** and torches.
- Therefore Judas took the soldier band and officers of the chief priests and of the Pharisees and came there with torches and **lamps** and weapons. (John 18:3)
- Ordinarily, household **lamps** were made of earthenware, although bronze **lamps** have also been discovered in Palestine. The common Canaanite **lamp** was shaped like a saucer, having a rounded bottom and vertical rim.
- Its rim was slightly pinched on one side, where the wick rested. Sometimes the rim was pinched at the four corners, providing four places for wicks.
- In time, **lamps** were made in somewhat different shapes, some being closed except for two holes, one on top, near the center, for filling the vessel with oil and the other being a spout for holding the wick.
- Certain **lamps** had a loop handle at the end opposite the spout, sometimes in a horizontal, but more often in a vertical position. The Greco-Roman type frequently bore mythological human or animal forms, but the Jews made lamps bearing such designs as vine leaves or scrolls.
- Early saucer **lamps** were generally a shade of brown. Varieties made in the **First Century C.E.** were of various colors, including light brown, red orange, and gray. Also, there were those of Roman times that were covered with red glaze.
- The **lamps** generally used in homes and other buildings might be placed in a niche in the wall, or on a shelf on a wall or pillar, or they might be suspended from the ceiling by means of a cord.
- Sometimes they were placed on clay, wooden, or metal stands. Such **lampstands** permitted the light to radiate throughout the room.

- 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**)
- People light a **lamp** and set it, not under the measuring basket, but upon the **lampstand**, and it shines upon all those in the house. (**Matthew 5:15**)
- And he went on to say to them; A **lamp** is not brought to be put under a measuring basket or under a bed, is it? It is brought to be put upon a lampstand, is it not? (**Mark 4:21**)
- There is no evidence that the candle as we know it today was used in Bible times. Whereas the flammable wax or fat of a modern candle is kept in the solid state until melted by the proximity of the flame, **lamp** oil, a liquid, was used in Biblical days.
- Hence, frequent rendering by the **King James Version** of the **Hebrew** *ner* and the **Greek** word *ly'khnos* as **candle** is inappropriate, as at;
- When he caused his **lamp** to shine upon my head, when I would walk through darkness by his light. (**Job 29:3**)
- 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**)
- Where modern translations such as, **AT, NW, RS**, fittingly use **lamp**.

•• Sanctuary Use

- In Israel's tabernacle, the **lampstand** was made of gold and differed in design from common household **lampstands**. Made according to Yehowah God's instructions
- 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**)
- It was ornamented with alternating knobs and blossoms and had three branches on each side of a central shaft, thus providing for seven

holders in which small **lamps** were placed. Only fine beaten olive oil was used in these **lamps**.

- 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**)
- 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**)
- Of a talent of pure gold he made it and all its utensils. (**Exodus 37:24**)
- As for you, you are to command the sons of Israel that they get for you pure, beaten olive oil for the luminary, in order to light up the **lamps** constantly. (**Exodus 27:20**)
- Later, Solomon had ten golden **lampstands** and a number of silver **lampstands** made for temple use.
- 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 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)
- And Solomon proceeded to make all the utensils that were at the house of the true God and the golden altar and the tables with the showbread upon them. (2 Chronicles 4:19)
- 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)
- 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)

•• Yehowah A Lamp And Source Of Light

- Yehowah is the paramount Source of light and guidance. David, after being delivered out of the hand of his enemies and of Saul, said; You are my **lamp**, O Yehowah, and it is Yehowah that makes my darkness shine.
- For you are my **lamp**, O Yehowah, and it is Yehowah that makes my darkness shine. (2 Samuel 22:29)
- In the Psalms a slightly different expression is used; You yourself will light my **lamp**, O Yehowah, there picturing Yehowah as the one kindling the **lamp** that David carried to **light** his way.
- For you yourself will light my **lamp**, O Yehowah, my God himself will make my darkness shine. (Psalms 18:28)

.. Jesus Christ

- In the heavenly New Jerusalem, as seen by the apostle John in vision, night will not exist. The city's light is not that of the sun and moon, for Yehowah God's glory directly lights up the city, just as the cloud of light that the Hebrews called the Shechinah illuminated the Most Holy of the ancient tabernacle and temple.
- And Yehowah proceeded to say to Moses; Speak to Aaron your brother, that he should not at all times come into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the cover which is upon the Ark, that he may not die, because in a cloud I shall appear over the cover. (**Leviticus 16:2**)
- Now on the day of setting up the tabernacle the cloud covered the tabernacle of the tent of the Testimony, but in the evening what appeared to be fire continued over the tabernacle until morning. (**Numbers 9:15**)
- That is the way it went on constantly. The cloud would cover it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. (**Numbers 9:16**)
- And the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is its **lamp**. This **city** will shed its spiritual light down upon the nations, the inhabitants of the new earth, for their guidance.
- And I did not see a temple in it, for Yehowah God the Almighty is its temple, also the Lamb is. (**Revelation 21:22**)
- And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God lighted it up, and its **lamp** was the Lamb. (**Revelation 21:23**)
- And the nations will walk by means of its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. (**Revelation 21:24**)
- And its gates will not be closed at all by day, for night will not exist there. (**Revelation 21:25**)

.. Kings Of The Line Of David

- Yehowah God established King David on the throne of Israel, and David proved to be a wise guide and leader of the nation, under God's direction. He was therefore called, the **lamp** of Israel.

- **At once Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his help and struck the Philistine down and put him to death. At that time the men of David swore to him, saying; You must not go out with us to the battle anymore, that you may not extinguish the **lamp** of Israel! (2 Samuel 21:17)**
- **In his kingdom covenant with David, Yehowah promised; Your very throne will become one firmly established to time indefinite.**
- **Even from the day that I put judges in command over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. And Yehowah has told you that a house is what Yehowah will make for you. (2 Samuel 7:11)**
- **When your days come to the full, and you must lie down with your forefathers, then I shall certainly raise up your seed after you, which will come out of your inward parts, and I shall indeed firmly establish his kingdom. (2 Samuel 7:12)**
- **He is the one that will build a house for my name, and I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingdom firmly to time indefinite. (2 Samuel 7:13)**
- **I myself shall become his father, and he himself will become my son. When he does wrong, I will also reprove him with the rod of men and with the strokes of the sons of Adam. (2 Samuel 7:14)**
- **As for my loving-kindness, it will not depart from him the way I removed it from Saul, whom I removed on account of you. (2 Samuel 7:15)**
- **And your house and your kingdom will certainly be steadfast to time indefinite before you, your very throne will become one firmly established to time indefinite. (2 Samuel 7:16)**
- **Accordingly, the dynasty, or family line, of rulers from David through his son Solomon was as a **lamp** to Israel.**
- **And to his son I shall give one tribe, in order, that David my servant may continue having a **lamp** always before me in Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen for myself to put my name there. (1 Kings 11:36)**

- For, on account of David, Yehowah his God gave him a **lamp** in Jerusalem by raising his son up after him and keeping Jerusalem in existence. (**1 Kings 15:4**)
- And Yehowah did not want to bring Judah to ruin for the sake of David his servant, just as he had promised him to give a **lamp** to him and to his sons always. (**2 Kings 8:19**)
- And Yehowah did not want to bring the house of David to ruin, for the sake of the covenant that he had concluded with David, and just as he had said he would give him and his sons a **lamp** always. (**2 Chronicles 21:7**)
- When King Zedekiah was dethroned and taken captive to Babylon to die there, it appeared that the **lamp** was extinguished. But Yehowah had not abandoned his covenant. He merely held rulership on the throne in abeyance, until he comes who has the legal right.
- A ruin, a ruin, a ruin I shall make it. As for this also, it will certainly become no one's until he comes who has the legal right, and I must give it to him. (**Ezekiel 21:27**)
- Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the son of David, was heir to that throne forever. Thus **the lamp** of David will never go out. Jesus is therefore an everlasting **lamp** as the one who possesses the Kingdom forever.
- The book of the history of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham. (**Matthew 1:1**)
- This one will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and Yehowah God will give him the throne of David his father. (**Luke 1:32**)

.. God's Word

- Because;
- But in reply he said; It is written: Man must live, not on bread alone, but on every utterance coming forth through Yehowah's mouth. (**Matthew 4:4**)
- His commandments are like a **lamp**, lighting the way of God's servants in the darkness of this world. The psalmist declared;

- Your word is a **lamp** to my foot, and a light to my roadway. (**Psalms 119:105**)
- King Solomon said; For the commandment is a **lamp**, and a light the Law is, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.
- For the commandment is a **lamp**, and a light the Law is, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life. (**Proverbs 6:23**)
- The apostle Peter had seen many prophecies concerning Jesus Christ fulfilled, and he had been personally present at Jesus transfiguration on the mountain. In view of all of this, Peter could say;
- Consequently we have the prophetic word made more sure, and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a **lamp shining in a dark place**, until day dawns and a daystar rises, in your hearts. (**2 Peter 1:19**)
- The Christian was encouraged, therefore, to allow the light of God's prophetic Word to illuminate his heart. Then it would furnish guidance in the safe way, until **day dawns and a daystar rises**.

.. God's Servants

- In the year **29 C.E**, John the son of Zechariah, a priest, came, announcing:
- In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea. (**Matthew 3:1**)
- Saying; Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near. (**Matthew 3:2**)
- In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there happened to be a certain priest named Zechariah of the division of Abijah, and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. (**Luke 1:5**)
- However, the angel said to him; Have no fear, Zechariah, because your supplication has been favorably heard, and your wife Elizabeth will become mother to a son to you, and you are to call his name John. (**Luke 1:13**)

- Israel had turned away from obedience to the Law, and John was sent preaching repentance and pointing to the Lamb of God. He succeeded in turning many of the sons of Israel back to Yehowah their God.

- And many of the sons of Israel will he turn back to Yehowah their God. (Luke 1:16)

- Consequently, Jesus said of John; That man was a burning and shining **lamp**, and you for a short time were willing to rejoice greatly in his light. But I have the witness greater than that of John, for the very works that my Father assigned me to accomplish, the works themselves that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father dispatched me.

- That man was a burning and shining **lamp**, and you for a short time were willing to **rejoice greatly in his light**. (John 5:35)

- But I have the witness greater than that of John, for the very works that my Father assigned me to accomplish, the works themselves that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father dispatched me. (John 5:36)

- Jesus also said to his disciples;

- You are the **light of the world**. A city cannot be hid when situated upon a mountain (Matthew 5:14)

- People light a **lamp** and set it, not under the measuring basket, but upon the lampstand, and it **shines** upon all those in the house. (Matthew 5:15)

- Likewise **let your light shine** before men, that they may see your fine works and give glory to your Father who is in the heavens. (Matthew 5:16)

- The servant of God should appreciate the reason for which he is given the light, and he should realize that it would be utterly foolish and **disastrous for him to refuse to let it shine** from him as from a **lamp**.

- Other Figurative Uses

- What a person depends upon to light his way is symbolized by a **lamp**. With such a figure the proverb contrasts the righteous and the wicked, saying,
- The very light of the righteous ones will rejoice, but the **lamp** of the wicked ones, it will be extinguished. (**Proverbs 13:9**)
- The **light** of the righteous continually becomes more brilliant, but however brilliantly the **lamp** of the wicked appears to shine and however prosperous his way may seem as a consequence, God will see to it that he ends up in darkness, where his foot will certainly stumble. Such an outcome is ahead for the person calling down evil on his father and mother.
- As for anyone calling down evil upon his father and his mother, his **lamp** will be extinguished at the approach of darkness.. (**Proverbs 20:20**)
- Ones **lamp** being extinguished also means that there is no future for him. Another proverb says,
- For there will prove to be no future for anyone bad, the very **lamp** of wicked people will be extinguished. (**Proverbs 24:20**)
- Bildad, when implying that Job was hiding some secret wickedness, said of the wicked;
- A light itself will certainly grow dark in his tent, and in it his own **lamp** will be extinguished. (**Job 18:6**)
- He will have no posterity and no progeny among his people, and there will be no survivor in his place of alien residence. (**Job 18:19**)
- And to his son I shall give one tribe, in order, that David my servant may continue having a **lamp** always before me in Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen for myself to put my name there. (**1 Kings 11:36**)
- **Ones eye is, figuratively, a lamp**. Jesus said,
- 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**) Footnote
- The **eye is like a lamp**, because with it the body can walk about without stumbling and without bumping into anything. Jesus, of course, had in mind the eyes of the heart.
- The **eyes of your heart having been enlightened**, that you may know what is the hope to which he called you, what the glorious riches are which he holds as an inheritance for the holy ones. (**Ephesians 1:18**)
- As his words in the context.
- She has sensed that her trading is good, her **lamp** does not go out at night. (**Proverbs 31:18**)
- In saying of the good wife, Her **lamp** does not go out at night, uses a figurative expression meaning that **she works industriously** at night, and even rises before dawn for further work.
- She also gets up while it is still night, and gives food to her household and the prescribed portion to her young women. (**Proverbs 31:15**)
- The breath of earthling man is the **lamp** of Yehowah, carefully searching all the innermost parts of the belly. (**Proverbs 20:27**)
- The **breath of earthling man is the lamp of Yehowah**, carefully searching all the innermost parts of the belly. By what a person **breathes out**, or gives vent to, whether good or bad expressions, he reveals, **or sheds light** on, his personality or inmost self.
- But Saul, **still breathing threat and murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest (**Acts of Apostles 9:1**)