

LAMPSTAND AND BREAD OF PRESENCE: "LIGHT AND BREAD"

THEMATIC THEOLOGY: THE TREE OF LIFE AND THE BREAD OF LIFE

SCRIPTURE TEXT:

^{ESV} **Exodus 25:23** "You shall make a table of acacia wood. Two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ²⁴ You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a molding of gold around it. ²⁵ And you shall make a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and a molding of gold around the rim. ²⁶ And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and fasten the rings to the four corners at its four legs. ²⁷ Close to the frame the rings shall lie, as holders for the poles to carry the table. ²⁸ You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, and the table shall be carried with these. ²⁹ And you shall make its plates and dishes for incense, and its flagons and bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold. ³⁰ And you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly. ³¹ "You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. ³² And there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; ³³ three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch- so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ³⁴ And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, ³⁵ and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out from the lampstand. ³⁶ Their calyxes and their branches shall be of one piece with it, the whole of it a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. ³⁷ You shall make seven lamps for it. And the lamps shall be set up so as to give light on the space in front of it. ³⁸ Its tongs and their trays shall be of pure gold. ³⁹ It shall be made, with all these utensils, out of a talent of pure gold. ⁴⁰ And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain.

^{ESV} **Exodus 27:20** "You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may regularly be set up to burn. ²¹ In the tent of meeting, outside the veil

that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to be observed throughout their generations by the people of Israel.

^{ESV} **Exodus 37:10** He also made the table of acacia wood. Two cubits was its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹ And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold around it. ¹² And he made a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and made a molding of gold around the rim. ¹³ He cast for it four rings of gold and fastened the rings to the four corners at its four legs. ¹⁴ Close to the frame were the rings, as holders for the poles to carry the table. ¹⁵ He made the poles of acacia wood to carry the table, and overlaid them with gold. ¹⁶ And he made the vessels of pure gold that were to be on the table, its plates and dishes for incense, and its bowls and flagons with which to pour drink offerings. ¹⁷ He also made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered work. Its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers were of one piece with it. ¹⁸ And there were six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; ¹⁹ three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch- so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ²⁰ And on the lampstand itself were four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, ²¹ and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out of it. ²² Their calyxes and their branches were of one piece with it. The whole of it was a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. ²³ And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold. ²⁴ He made it and all its utensils out of a talent of pure gold.

^{ESV} **Revelation 1:1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. ⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God

and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." ⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book 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." ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹ Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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.

2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the

paradise of God.' ⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. ⁹ "'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.' ¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. ¹³ "'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.' ¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ "'I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the

morning star. ²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

The Light and the Bread: “The Tree of Life and the Bread of Life”

Rev. Charles R. Biggs- Exodus 25

OUTLINE OF SERMON

How the Lampstand-Menorah and the Bread of the Presence was a picture of God and His redemption:

- I. PRACTICALLY: HOW THE LAMPSTAND AND THE BREAD WERE PRACTICALLY USED BY THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES**
- II. SYMBOLICALLY: HOW THE LAMPSTAND AND THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE SYMBOLIZED GOD’S LIGHT AND LIFE TO HIS PEOPLE**
- III. CHRISTOLOGICALLY: “IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN”- JOHN 1:4-8**

Summary of Sermon

The Life of God and the Light of God as vitally important for His people.

The Light and the Bread symbolize this gracious provision for the people of God!

LIGHT AND LIFE

I. PRACTICALLY: HOW THE LAMPSTAND AND BREAD WERE PRACTICALLY USED BY THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES

hr'Anm. menowrah {men-o-raw'} or hr'nOm. menorah {men-o-raw'}
Meaning: 1) lamp stand

Exodus 25:31-40: You shall make a lampstand of **pure gold**. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. ³² And there shall be **six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it;** ³³ three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch- so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ³⁴ And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like **almond blossoms**, with their calyxes and flowers, ³⁵ and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out from the lampstand. ³⁶ Their calyxes and their branches shall be of one piece with it, the whole of it a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. ³⁷ **You shall make seven lamps for it. And the lamps shall be set up so as to give light on the space in front of it.** ³⁸ Its tongs and their trays shall be of **pure gold**. ³⁹ It shall be made, with all these **utensils**, out of a talent of **pure gold**.

⁴⁰ **And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain.**

A. Lampstand-Menorah Practical Usefulness

- (1) Lampstand-Menorah was located to the south, or the left of the Priest or Levite as he entered into the Holy Place.
- (2) Lit the inner part of the Tabernacle-Tent so that the Priests and Levites could serve the Lord on behalf of the people.
 - The servants of God in the Holy Place would experience heaven on earth visually and sensually.

- **How the Light would Enhance the Curtains and Entrance into the Holy of Holies** that separated the Holy Place from Most Holy Place and the close presence of Almighty God.
- Glorious cherubim embroidered in the tapestry of the curtains in ***blue, purple and scarlet colors*** - -like heaven itself.

Remember last sermon: God was enthroned upon the cherubim!

- OT scholar Tremper Longman III writes: "The interior was dimly lit by the menorah. The air inside the tabernacle was often cloudy from incense and the smoke of sacrifices, the latter coming in from the outside. ***Nonetheless, as one stood in the tabernacle and looked around, he would see a deep blue background with images of cherubim looking as though suspended in midair...***

...It is hard to miss the idea that the impression was to be a heavenly one. As one walked into the tabernacle, he would be symbolically transferred from an earthly location to a (symbolically at least) heavenly one [my emphasis]." –Longman, 'Immanuel in Our Place: Seeing Christ in Israel's Worship', pg. 29.

- (3) "Welcome mat" and God's Hospitality (grace and mercy)- Light and bread as the Priest-Levite entered the Holy Place!

"Someone is at home" imagery (from P. Ryken's excellent commentary on Exodus).

Application: When someone is awaiting guests they leave their porch-lights on.

No one likes to go into a dark cellar, dark room, or enter a dark house. A light makes for a welcome-mat for guests.

B. Bread of Presence Practical Usefulness

Exodus 25:23-30: "You shall make a table of acacia wood. Two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ²⁴ You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a molding of gold around it. ²⁵ And you shall make a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and a molding of gold around the rim. ²⁶ And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and fasten the rings to the four corners at its four legs. ²⁷ Close to the frame the rings shall lie, as holders for the poles to carry the table. ²⁸ You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, and the table shall be carried with these. ²⁹ And you shall make its plates and dishes for incense, and its flagons and bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold. ³⁰ And you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly.

➤ **BREAD OF THE PRESENCE/SHEWBREAD** (Luther → Tyndale's English Bible (Like "mercy seat" from last sermon))

~ynIßP' ~x,l,

'Le-hem Pan-nim'

- (1) Bread of the Presence was located to the North, or the right of the Priest or Levite as he entered into the Holy Place.
- (2) Bread made of wheat or barley was a staple of the biblical diet. **It was essential for the life of the people.**
- (3) Used as food for the Priests-Levites to give strength to their bodies as they served the living God as representatives of the people.
- (4) Table of the presence about the size of a modern coffee table with 12 cakes of bread set out each Sabbath in the presence of the Lord.

II. SYMBOLICALLY: HOW THE LAMPSTAND AND THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE SYMBOLIZED GOD'S LIGHT AND LIFE TO HIS PEOPLE

NOTE: THE SYMBOLISM OF EACH PIECE OF FURNITURE TEACHES SOMETHING ABOUT GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. FROM ONE ANGLE YOU SEE A TRUTH ABOUT YHWH BEING COMMUNICATED TO THE PEOPLE, AND FROM ONE ANGLE YOU SEE A TRUTH OF WHO THE PEOPLE OF GOD WERE CALLED TO BE BY FAITH IN HIM.

THE LAMPSTAND AND THE BREAD TAUGHT TWO THINGS PRIMARILY: (1) WHO GOD WAS AS LIGHT AND LIFE-GIVER; AND (2) WHO THE PEOPLE OF GOD WERE CALLED TO BE AS LIGHTS AND PROSPEROUS PEOPLE OF BLESSING.

LAMPSTAND-MENORAH SYMBOLISM:

- (1) **The Tree of Life** and Israel in the "New Eden" as the people of God. **Three stages of life**: bud, blossom, and flower (constant and perpetual life picture of the almond tree: first tree that blossoms in Israel each year).
- (2) **Burning Bush**: This "Tree of Life" was also burning without being consumed (Exodus 3). God's special covenantal-presence with his people: "I AM that I AM" and "I will be your God".
- (3) **Seven Branches**: Symbolizing God's perfection, splendor and holiness.
- (4) **Theophanic Glory-Cloud**: God protected Israel with fire by night and cloud by day (probably a reference with fire and light to the Theophanic-Glory-Cloud). Glory cloud that was seen on top of Mt. Sinai where the people see God as a "consuming fire" (Exodus 19-20; Heb. 12:28).
- (5) **Israel a Light**: Israel was to be a light to the nations, showing forth God's righteousness and law.
- (6) **Priestly Benediction**: A constant reminder of the familiar and encouraging priestly benediction (the lampstand shows visually the covenantal blessings of God's shining upon the Israelites' faces and their reflecting his glory to the world):

ESV Numbers 6:24-26: The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

➤ **BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE TREE OF LIFE**

TWO TREES, TWO DESTINIES THROUGH OBEDIENCE OR DISOBEDIENCE: A TRUE LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION:

ESV Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

ESV Genesis 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and **take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever-**" ²³ **therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.** ²⁴ **He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.**

[The special glory-presence of God was guarded by the cherubim of glory with a flaming sword; man lost spiritual life and fellowship with God and could not enter into his presence as a sinner]

WHAT WAS THE TREE OF LIFE?

1. The Tree of Life was a sacramental-set-apart-symbol of immortality and life found in God's special covenantal-presence.
2. After sin entered this world through Adam and Eve's disobedience, they were barred from the Tree of Life. **This was an act of mercy from God so that they would not eat of the tree and live eternally in a fallen world.** This mercy of God shows us that immortality still awaits all those whose hope is in God.

Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—"

3. "The Tree of Life is a supreme image at once of **edenic splendor and of paradise lost**—an image of nostalgia and longing for lost perfection." –Dict. Of Biblical Imagery, pg. 889

^{ESV} **Revelation 2:7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. ***To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.***¹

^{ESV} **Revelation 22:1** Then the angel showed me the river of ***the water of life***, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb [Notice: God the Father, Christ the Lamb, and the Holy Spirit (as the water of life, cf. John 7:37-39)]² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on ***either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.***³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

Note the Trinitarian Picture-Imagery above in the Book of Revelation that brings together the "life and the light" of the Lamptstand-Menorah symbolism

^{ESV} **Revelation 22:14** *Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.*¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,¹⁹ ***and if anyone takes away from the words of***

the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

A return to the Tree of Life in Paradise by faith in Christ alone!

Genesis and Revelation, Creation and Re-Creation point us to the immortality and life found in God alone!

Without light, no life...

SYMBOLISM OF THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE, "SHOWBREAD", OR THE "BREAD OF LIFE"

LITERALLY: "BREAD OF THE FACE", OR "BREAD BEFORE THE FACE OF GOD"

1. The Bread of Presence symbolized how God was present with his people as God, **Redeemer, and Provider of all things!**

Israel was not to worry nor to be afraid or fearful for God's special covenantal-presence will provide all the physical-material things that they need:

"I will be your God, dwell with you, and you shall be my people."

2. Israel ate **manna** provided by God in the wilderness.
3. Remember the covenantal meal in Exodus 24 where the covenant was ratified by eating a meal in God's presence. A type or foretaste of Christ's eating with his people, and the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

BIBLICAL-THEOLOGY OF BREAD: "LIFE FOOD"

- **Bread as an essential of the fruit of man's labors from the land (or the earth)**

^{ESV} **Genesis 3:19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

^{ESV} **Psalm 37:25** I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.

➤ **Bread as part of an ancient Near Eastern covenantal-ceremonial meal**

^{ESV} **Genesis 14:18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)

[Some scholars believe that there was also wine drank on the Table of the Shewbread or the Table for the Bread of the Presence]

➤ **Bread as a basic and necessary provision of God to the people.**

^{ESV} **Exodus 16:4** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.

^{ESV} **Psalm 78:20** He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. **Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?"**

➤ **Bread as necessary for material-physical sustenance, but not essential for spiritual growth.**

^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 8:3** And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

The Lord's Prayer teaches us to rely on God's provision alone

^{ESV} **Matthew 6:11** Give us this day our daily bread,

Lord's Supper Established at Christ's Death with the use of bread

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

SUMMARY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IMAGERY OF BREAD IN SCRIPTURE:

ONE WRITER WROTE: "Bread is one of many biblical images that, if traced through the canon, yields a picture of salvation history and biblical doctrine in microcosm. Salient points on the chart include bread as a staple of life that comes to all people from God's providence, miraculous sustenance of life for God's chosen people in their wilderness wanderings at the time of the Exodus, the spiritual reality of faith in Christ and his atoning death, and the participation in the coming eschatological messianic banquet." –Dict. Of Biblical Imagery, pg. 118.

APPLICATION: *God's constant covenantal presence and provision for his people!*

IN THE LAMPSTAND AND THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE WE SEE THAT GOD IS BOTH CREATOR AND REDEEMER. HE IS THE GOD WHO PROVIDES SPIRITUAL LIFE AND IMMORTALITY FROM DEATH, AND THE ONE WHO PROVIDES THE LIFE-FOOD OR BREAD, OR MATERIAL-PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

BOTH SPIRITUAL LIFE AS WELL AS MATERIAL-PHYSICAL LIFE-NEEDS ARE MET BY GOD WHO IS GRACIOUS, MERCIFUL AND LOVING! THE TREE OF LIFE: IMMORTALITY OR SPIRITUAL LIFE; THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE: MORTALITY OR MATERIAL-PHYSICAL LIFE NEEDS ARE MET.

HOW MUCH MORE DO WE SEE GOD'S SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL-PHYSICAL PROVISION IN JESUS CHRIST!?

III. CHRISTOLOGICALLY: HOW CHRIST IS PICTURED IN THE LAMPSTAND AND BREAD OF PRESENCE- "IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN"- JOHN 1:4-8

NOTE: THE SYMBOLISM OF EACH PIECE OF FURNITURE TEACHES SOMETHING ABOUT GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. FROM ONE ANGLE YOU SEE A TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST BEING COMMUNICATED TO THE PEOPLE, AND FROM ONE ANGLE YOU SEE A TRUTH OF WHO THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE CALLED TO BE BY FAITH IN JESUS.

THROUGH THE LAMPSTAND AND BREAD WE ARE TAUGHT (1) WHO JESUS IS AS LIFE AND LIGHT; AND (2) WHO WE ARE IN JESUS CHRIST AS THOSE WHO HAVE NEW LIFE AND LIVE IN HIS CONSTANT LIGHT AND FAVOR.

➤ **Connection between Menorah and Bread of Presence:**

1. Both symbolized Life in God alone.
2. Both were in the land, and were promised to those who were obedient to God's Word (Tree of Life: Immortality or spiritual provision and the Bread of Life: Food or material provision).
3. Both are found in Christ's life and light for us!

➤ **Light and Life are found in Jesus Christ alone - -apart from him we are in dark and dead!**

Without light, no life...

Compare with Isaiah's prophecy of Messiah:

^{ESV} **Isaiah 9:2** *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;* those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

^{ESV} **Matthew 4:16** *the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."*

➤ **Lampstand in Tabernacle-Tent:** John records that Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12).

The Apostle John sees the True Lampstand and True Bread of the Presence in Christ.

In John 1:1-9 the Apostle John traces the life and the light that the Tree of Life-Menorah symbolized and pointed toward in Jesus Christ.

^{ESV} **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him

was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ ***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*** ⁶ ***There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*** ⁷ ***He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.*** ⁸ ***He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*** ⁹ ***The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.***

^{ESV} **John 8:12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "***I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.***"

^{ESV} **John 9:5** As long as ***I am in the world, I am the light of the world.***"

^{ESV} **John 12:36** While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

^{ESV} **John 12:46** I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

^{ESV} **Revelation 21:23** ***And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light,*** and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,

^{ESV} **Revelation 22:5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Tree of Life: "Return to Paradise in Christ"

^{ESV} **Luke 23:39-46:** One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." ⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud

voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"
And having said this he breathed his last.

- **Bread of the Presence:** John records that Jesus is the Bread of Life, the True Manna from Heaven (John 6:31-51).

^{ESV} **John 6:33** For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

^{ESV} **John 6:35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

^{ESV} **John 6:48** I am the bread of life.

^{ESV} **John 6:51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

JESUS CALLS HIMSELF THE TRUE VINE - -THE LIFE-GIVING TREE OF LIFE AND BREAD OF LIFE:

^{ESV} **John 15:1** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

JESUS CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IN HIM! JESUS CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO FIND ALL OF THEIR PROVISION AND "BREAD" MATERIALLY AND SPIRITUALLY BY FEEDING ON HIM!

YOU AS THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST ARE THE LAMPSTAND OF GOD'S TEMPLE "IN CHIRST' AS THE BOOK OF REVELATION TEACHES US!