

BFF319 The Golden Lamp Stand, the Menorah, #1

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: Surprisingly, I'm in pretty good shape. How's that for a teaser?

Scott: That's good. Why are you surprised about that?

Steve: Thursday morning, I got up at 4:00—something, I left the house at 5:00, drove to the airport, and flew to Wisconsin for the Wisconsin State Homeschool Convention, which was in Wisconsin Dells. It's about 45 minutes from Madison.

I had never been there before, and I went. Probably people never think about this, but there were only two people that I knew that I knew before I got there. That was Andrew Pudewa and Israel Wayne because they were also speaking. I thought, "Wow." You feel a little strange.

Then, it starts raining. The second morning, it snowed on me. I arrived at a huge hotel, I wasn't dressed properly, and I'm hungry, and I'm thinking to myself, "Why do I still go to conferences?"

By the time I left a day later I had made wonderful friendships and connections with people. I even thought, "Maybe I should move to Wisconsin."

I spoke a couple times the first afternoon. I got up early the next morning, packed, ate breakfast and headed for the vendor hall. Then I spoke three times back to back to back and a few hours later jumped in the car, drove to the airport. Got home after 11:00. How you like that for a two-day event?

Scott: That's pretty good.

Steve: The next morning, I was Papa to my two granddaughters who had come over to spend the night with us. I hit the ground running, and we were together all afternoon. Fortunately, Sandy took them out shopping for a two-hour window, and I slept like a dead man. When I got up I was good again.

The next morning, the girls wanted to play basketball at 7:30 which I did for a half an hour before church. Then, I took Johnny to church, and came home. That afternoon, we hosted Ethan's four peanuts all afternoon.

Scott: I'm tired just listening to you.

Steve: I took them to the playground where they persuaded me to be a monster, and chase them all around. Soon other kids in the playground said, "Chase me, too. Chase me, too." So I growled and chased kids.

Later that afternoon we drove to my niece's house for a family gathering. In a few minutes time, I was the kid monitor on the trampoline, Goliath and the four little folks. I don't know if you've ever seen a trampoline with a giant on it. Pretty funny :-)

Scott: I was going to say they go flying if you're jumping.

Steve: I didn't jump too high because I didn't want them flying over the netting. I spent most of the afternoon on the trampoline being the referee.

Then I get up Monday, and I thought, "I'm still alive." That was a full Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday -- praise the Lord, -- but it was rich.

Scott: Well, I'd be in traction if I tried all that.

Steve: Well, I did feel a little bit yesterday.

Scott: I'd be a little sore at least.

Steve: Today, we're going to shift gears a little bit. We're going back to the lampstand. Remember, this is inside the holy place. We talked about the table with the showbread on top, the bread of Faces, the bread of Presence. Then across the room there's a lampstand.

As far as I can tell, this is the only source of light for the holy place. They didn't have electricity. Let's pray before we go any further. Father, thank you for physically sustaining us. I pray that You draw near to us now. Enlighten us from Your word, give insights to us, even more than is in my notes.

I pray dear Holy Spirit, that You will talk to each one of us, and give us glimpses of things that we cannot just think, "Oh, this is an Old Testament tabernacle in a holy place, and it's all gone away," but there's a value in it because You have chosen to record it in this scripture. In Jesus name. Amen.

Steve: A little review. In Exodus 25 and Exodus 37. The description Moses gets on the mountain is almost identical. The materials for this came from the children of Israel making an offering because this particular lampstand has a talent of pure gold.

I didn't do a lot of research into how much a talent is, but it looks like it is over a hundred pounds of pure gold. I know gold is weighty, but that's still a lot of gold. It is also to be one piece, with a lot of ornate work that goes into this, and it's hammered gold. When you hammer gold, you can hammer it so thin that you can see through it. This is amazing stuff.

Exodus 25:31-38. ""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. 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; 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. And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out from the lampstand. 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. 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. Its tongs and their trays shall be of pure gold. It shall be made, with all these utensils, out of a talent of pure gold. And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain."

If you are listening to this, you are picturing something that we call a "menorah." Most people when they go to Israel come home with a menorah along with a Nativity scene carved out of olive wood. These are very common gifts.

Turns out that the word "menorat" is used four times, and it's translated here "lampstand." All four of these times are either in Exodus 25, 37, Numbers 8, and Zechariah 4.

The root word is "menorah," and it's used 42 times, and also translated "candlestick." It comes from the root word "ner," N-E-R, which appears 43 times, and is translated "lamps." The lampstand has seven lamps.

These lamps, "Shall be set up so as to give light." I'm assuming they're supposed to be high enough and arranged to provide maximum light. This Hebrew word "ner" can be translated, candles, lamps, or lights.

The gold is pure, "tahor" in Hebrew. It means clean, pure. It is also hammered work, "miqshah." I'm not a goldsmith, but this must be something that is fancy stuff being crafted by Oholiab and Bezalel, who were anointed to do this.

The next words we come to are base, stem, cups, flowers, etc. The first word is "base." This word base is from the Hebrew "yarek." Even though it's translated base here, it's usually translated thigh, or loin, or side.

I'm trying to dig into this, and I have more work ahead of me on this one. Remember that Abraham's servant had to put his hand under his thigh or on his thigh, and take an oath that he was going to go find a wife for his son, Isaac.

You remember Jacob's thigh. When he was wrestling the Angel, the Angel touched his thigh and dislocated it or perhaps his hip. This part of an animal became a holy thing for the children of Israel from that point on, and they would never eat the food from this part of the body.

Jacob made Joseph take an oath like Abraham's servant. "Genesis 47:29-30 When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, but let me lie with my fathers.

Apparently the thigh, or side, or loin has a lot to do with a person's legacy, and thus these important oaths were made touching the thigh. Abraham's legacy was on the line when he said, "Don't find a son unless he's from my people," and Jacob, we know that the seed of Abraham went down from Abraham to Isaac, to Jacob, to Joseph.

Steve: The stem, or the branches, or the reed, or the stalk, these are the words that come out of the sides of the lamp stand, and are like branches.

Then, you have the word "cups" or "bowls." I'm looking up this word, and I'm thinking is this just like a cup or is it just a bowl? Most of the time it's translated "cup," but interestingly, it's the same word that describes the cup hidden in the sacks of his brothers.

We have a base, and stems, and cups. There are four cups shaped like almond blossoms. There are also calyxes, which may also translated, bulbs, or capitals, or knops. These are translated from the Hebrew "kaphtor" which means to encircle. It sounds like it's ornate, goes around the cup, and makes it look quite fancy.

Then you have flowers, blossoms, sprout, bud, that come from the Hebrew "parakh." I want to read a longer passage on this because I think this is significant.

When the leaders were fussing against Moses, "Why are you the leader? You and Aaron, who made you the big cheeses? We are just as important as you are."

Numbers 17:1-8, Jehovah spoke to Moses saying, "Speak to the people of Israel, and get from them staffs one for each father's house, from all their chiefs, according to their father's houses, 12 staffs, write each man's name on his staff." Staff represents authority.

These are the people that were in charge of their father's houses and each have staffs representing their authority. "Write each man's name on his staff, and write Aaron's name on the staff of Levi. For there shall be one staff for the head of each fathers' house. Then you shall deposit them in the tent of meeting before the testimony, where I meet with you. And the staff of the man whom I choose shall sprout. Thus I will make to cease from me the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against you." Moses spoke to the people of Israel. And all their chiefs gave him staffs, one for each chief, according to their fathers' houses, twelve staffs. And the staff of Aaron was among their staffs. And Moses deposited the staffs before Jehovah in the tent of the testimony. On the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.

The staff of Aaron had sprouted and put forth buds -- the same root word -- and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds. Isn't that a fascinating connection?

This staff not only budded, and it was as far as I can tell, it was quite near the menorah, the lampstand, which had buds, and they were shaped like almond blossoms, and now Aaron staff sprouts, puts forth buds, produces blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds in one night. Miracle.

Let's look at this word "almond" a little bit because this is fascinating. Almond blossom comes from Hebrew "shaqad." All the times that is used -- that word "shaqad" -- is in Exodus 25 or Exodus 37, the two portions where God is describing

the lampstand, the menorah. There's another word closely related. It's "shaqed." S-H-A-Q-E-D. It means almond tree and almonds.

Notice where this word is used, and I get goosebumps as I read this. Jeremiah 1:11 and 12, "The word of Jehovah came to me saying, Jeremiah, what do you see? I said, I see an almond branch. Then Jehovah said to me, you have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it." That is a powerful passage in the Word of God.

God is not just giving words to fill the air, and to fill the Bible up. God has carefully chosen each word that is put into the Word of God. Heaven and Earth are going to pass away, but God's word is not going to pass away. God has not only authored the Word of God, He is watching over every piece of it, to see that is performed.

We've talked about this way back when we were talking about the prophecies of the Messiah. When I first started reading in Matthew in 2021, I kept stopping because it kept saying over and over that this or that was done to fulfill the Word of God.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem to fulfill the Word of God, yet he came from Nazareth to fulfill the Word of God. Jesus did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets He came to fulfill them.

That's why we need to read the whole book because God has not only authored it, and knows it, but Jesus came to fulfill it, and He was the Word lived out, the Word made flesh, and Jehovah is in heaven watching over what He has said, and He's going to perform it to the letter, going to bring it to full maturity, and accomplishment.

At the end of Exodus 25. It says, "You shall make the seven lamps and the lamps shall be set up so as to give light."

Scott: Wow.

Steve: Now, your mind can go all kinds of different places with this, but I looked up the word "give light," which is O-R, "or," and it says it's translated "to be light" or "to become light." This is light. I thought, "I wonder where it's used in the Bible?" I started reading through all the places it's used.

Here's the first 8 or 10, Genesis 1:15, "Let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth, and it was so." God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth. This is Genesis talking about the sun and the moon.

Exodus 13:21, "Jehovah went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them the light that they might travel by day and by night." So, there's fire, a pillar of fire, which gives light.

We're talking about a lampstand, which obviously, we haven't even gotten to it yet, but it's full of oil. This oil is going to light up, and it's going to give them light."

Numbers 6:25, at the end of the Aaronic benediction which God gave to bless the people of Israel. "Jehovah bless thee, and keep thee. Jehovah make his face to shine

upon you, and be gracious to you." There it is, "Make his face to shine upon you, make his face to give light upon you."

Psalm 19:8, "The precepts of Jehovah are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of Jehovah is pure, enlightening the eyes, giving light to the eyes." Same word.

Several times in Psalm 80, I chose two of them here, verses 3 and 7. "Restore us, O God. Let Your face shine that we may be saved." Same word, "Restore us, O God of hosts. Let Your face shine or give light that we may be saved." This is what we have so far.

Where's your mind going, Scott? We're just really doing our research today. We're just looking at the Hebrew words. Some of the main players. What are you hearing?

Scott: It's all fascinating. I'm still stuck on how ornate the lampstand is and how...There must have been somebody because I couldn't sculpt a paper cup, so the idea of trying to sculpt this thing out of pure gold in one piece is just astonishing to me. Then, all the symbolism, I mean, I'm starting to expect this now, so it's not as surprising to me.

Steve: Well, I will say this, that word "talent," it's K-I-K-K-A-R, and it means "a round." It can be a round loaf, it can be a round district or valley. Several times it's talking about valleys, but it can also be a round weight, a measure of weight or money, talent. That's used 47 times. That's the biggest one.

The second time is used the most is talking about a round shape, valley or district, but it's also the word that's really closely related to K-A-R-A-R which is dancing. David danced around the Ark, two times in 2 Samuel 6. I don't know if there's any connection there, but finding these roots are incredibly significant.

A talent, the best I can learn, is over a hundred pounds. I heard everything from 108 to 140 pounds, but that's huge.

Let me just read one more passage, and then we'll probably need to wrap it up today. Numbers 8, Jehovah spoke to Moses saying, "Speak to Aaron and say to him, when you set up the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand." Aaron did so. He set up his lamps in front of the lampstand, as Jehovah commanded Moses. This was the workmanship of the lampstand.

Hammered work of gold from its base to its flowers. It was hammered work according to the pattern that Jehovah had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

That's a summation. Of course, we read in Exodus 25, we could have read in Exodus 37. It's very similar. We have all of the blossoms, the knops, and we have the Menorah. I'm just going to finish with this, plant the seed here for the next episode.

I mentioned that the word "menorah" has root words. It turns out that the root words are connected to "nahar," and you can hear that -- menorah, N-R-H, and here, nahar N-H-R -- which means a river which flows.

Steve: There are about five words that are translated as derivations of this "nahar," and they not only mean "it flows," which would be like the oil, but it also means "it gives light," which makes sense because this menorah was there to give light, but it was also something that flowed the oil.

I'm laying the foundation for the next time because our objective is not only to understand what God is saying here, but our objective is to see Jesus. I think we're going to see Jesus in a profound way, if we hold onto those thoughts that menorah has the roots, "nahar," which means to flow, but it also means to give light.

Father, thank You for showing Moses this pattern. Thank You for anointing these men to do the work of building it, and thank You for the rich symbolism we see here of oil, -- which we know something about -- of light, not only from Your face, but from Your word that gives light. It was a pillar that gave light to the children of Israel.

We have light, we have oil, we have almond blossoms which are reminding us that every jot and tittle of Your word, You are watching over to perform it. You fulfilled them in Jesus, You're fulfilling them to our day.

I pray that somehow just hearing these words that You have recorded in Your book, that something will just enter right down deep in our hearts that will give us faith and confidence in You, that You will fulfill Your word to the letter, -- just as it says in Revelation -- and You will be King over all the Earth, and You will be the light of the world. In Jesus name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@Gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocialisedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.