

BFF320 Menorah, part 2

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? Did you have a meaningful Easter Sunday?

Steve: I did thanks for asking. Let's begin with prayer.

Father, thank you for enduring what you endured as a father watching his son be separated from him. Thank you for Jesus, what you endured for being separated from your dad because of our sins. Thank you for taking our sins upon you. Thank you for forgiving us.

Thank you for forgiving those people that were crucifying you. Right in the midst of the nails and the pain, and the incredible suffering, and yet, in the midst of it, your love shone through again, and you said, "Father forgive them."

Father, thank you for that inestimable love that you revealed to us on that Easter. I don't even like to say the word Easter anymore. That Crucifixion day, during the Passover, when you passed over our sins and put them upon your son. Thank you, Spirit of God for helping Jesus through that. Thank you for comforting him and helping him and being his endurance.

This is an incredible view into the work of the Trinity. We worship you, and we rejoice, because three days later the Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead and here we are today celebrating, living in an amazing country and warm homes. We have food, and we have hope; we have faith, and you're amazing.

Help us today as we contemplate the menorah, which seems a bit less significant than the crucifixion. But help us to glean insights from it today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: That's a deep start to the day. On our journey through the tabernacle, we're now in the tent. We're getting really close to the most holy place, and we're in the holy place with a showbread studying the menorah.

A quick review, the menorah was a lampstand. It was made of beaten gold, hammered out of one piece that weighed a talent, which I have read could be anywhere from 75 to 100 pounds. It was one piece, it had almond flowers on it. Let's not forget that this tabernacle was a glimpse into heaven, for the pattern was shown to Moses by God Himself.

What Moses is doing, is replicating what he saw in heaven. I don't minimize this anymore, because this is God helping us to see into heaven. This pattern was shown to Moses when he was on the mountain, when he was straddling, you might say, heaven and earth. He was on earth, but he was seeing things in heaven.

This reminds me of the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done on earth, just as it is in heaven." The tabernacle was a connecting link between heaven and earth. It's teaching us things from a heavenly perspective on this earth.

We're going to see that this topic of the menorah doesn't stop in Exodus and Numbers, and then later in the temple. There's a whole bunch of references today in the research that I've been doing to the book of Revelation. You might say Moses is laying a foundation for things that we're going to build upon in the end times.

Last week we talked about the almond branches. That concept of almonds, which is mentioned six times in Exodus 25 and 37. Then there's an almond-tree, shâkêd, which Jeremiah picks up on when he says, "The word of Jehovah came to me saying, Jeremiah, what do you see? I said, I see an almond branch. Then Jehovah said to him, you have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it." (Jeremiah 1:11-12)

God in heaven has given us His word and we know that, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

We know that, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

We know that, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3) When God says something, He doesn't just say stuff, He means what He says. He says it and then He's sitting on His throne and is watching over it. He's going to make sure that it's performed to the letter.

On Easter Sunday, the soldiers started to rip up Jesus' clothes. One guy says, "No, let's cast lots for them." Then John 19:24, "so they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.' This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, 'They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.'"

They were going to break His bones like they did to the two thieves on both sides. But, "Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced." (John 19:31-37)

All the way down to the very last detail of the crucifixion, it was fulfilled to the letter because God, who has chosen the almonds, which is tied into the tabernacle. God is watching over His word to perform it.

I'm reading in Joshua now. I don't know where you are in your Old Testament reading. I read that they took Jericho a couple of days ago. Then when Joshua took Jericho, He

says, "And whoever rebuilds this city, is going to do so with the death of his firstborn." When he lays the first gate and when he concentrates or whatever sets apart the last gate, he's going to lose his youngest son.

That's exactly what happened years and years later. This guy goes in and rebuilds Jericho, he lost his first and he lost his last son, because God was watching over the words of His prophet to perform it. Isn't that powerful?

I'm going to quickly read Numbers 8:1-4 to get in the Spirit here. "Jehovah spoke to Moses saying, speak to Aaron, 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 its lamps in front of the lampstand as Jehovah commanded Moses, and 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. He made the lampstand."

The word for lampstand is menorah. This specific word is used in Exodus 25 and Numbers 8 which I read. It's also used in Zechariah 4, which we might get to today. It's closely related to menorah which is what most of us say, which means candlestick. The root word in both of those words is "Ner" which means lamp.

It's a lampstand. It's a candlestick. It holds lamps, candles, and lights. This word is used 43 times in the Bible. When speaking of the root word Ner, "The renowned theologian, Gesenius, insisted it was derived from the verb "Nahar", meaning to light or shine.

Gesenius might be right because the derivatives of the unknown root are Ner, meaning lamp. Nir, N-I-R, also meaning lamp. The feminine form of the noun is menorah, the word for lampstand. This changes things a little bit in my thinking =, because it's not simply a solid piece of gold with oil and perhaps wicks.

But the root word is river, which means to flow. It well does in the Hebrew. It means to stream, it means to shine. It means to be radiant or beam. There's a lot of beautiful scriptures about Ner.

I'm going to read one in 2 Corinthians 4:6 because I want to make sure that we keep our focus on Christ. For one of the reasons we're learning this, is to see Jesus more clearly. 2 Corinthians 4:6. "God who said, light shall shine out of darkness, is the one who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

Light shining out of darkness, is Christ. In my head, I have quite an image of this holy place. I see the cherubim on the ceiling. There is beautiful, incredibly beautiful, ornate golden furniture in here. This is a dark place, because it's a tent and there's no light in there. There's no electricity.

In this dark place, we have these lampstands, these lamps. There are seven lamps on this lampstand. We could do a whole bunch of research just on the word seven, which

in Hebrew is Sheba, which is really close to Shaba, which means – to swear, make an oath, a covenant, or a solemn oath. Seven can also imply fulfillment and completion in that number. We know we have seven days in a week.

In the book of Revelation, I'm going to read a couple of different passages. Revelation 1:10, John is talking, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet saying, 'Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches to Ephesus, to Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.'"

Then in the 12th verse, "Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me, and having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands. In the middle of the lampstands, I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet and girded across His chest with a golden sash."

What a picture! I could stop right there. John turned around, he saw seven golden lampstands, which are the seven churches. By the way, this says this in the 20th verse. He says, "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Here are these seven golden lampstands. The lampstand is the church. Among them, in the middle of them was someone like the son of man.

Revelation 2:1 reiterates this. He says, "The one who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the one who walks among the seven golden lampstands."

In Revelation 2:5, He tells them, "Remember from where you have fallen and repent, and do the deeds you did at first, or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place." There's the fear of God as well.

There's seven golden lampstands. I don't know if they have the exact configuration, but I'd be surprised if they didn't. Here's a lampstand in Exodus, it's in the holy place. We have come through the veil which is Christ in His flesh.

We're about to enter the most holy place. And on one table, we have the 12 tribes of Israel. We have 12 bread of faces, if you remember that. We have the 12 tribes of Israel and the promises that God had made to them. Then on the other side of the room, we have this golden lampstand which is giving light to the whole room.

These seven golden lampstands are the seven churches. Jesus is walking among the seven churches. I'm just going to take it by faith. Jesus is the golden lampstand because He is the church. We, as members of the body of Christ, are members of the church. Christ is the church.

I think we have a few minutes which gives us time for one more. I mentioned that the root word for menorah was N-E-R. Ner which means lamp. I read through. There's 48 times the word lamp is used. A whole bunch of them are in the Pentateuch talking about the lamps and the lampstands.

There's a couple that stretched me a little bit and blessed me. The first one is 1 Samuel 3:3, talking about Eli and Samuel. It says, "And the lamp of God had not yet gone out."

What a picture, because we know that the kingdom was in dire straits right then. Because we're at the end of the book of Judges, we're about to come upon Samuel. Eli, as we know, knew how to hear God, but he wasn't much of a judge, his sons were abominable. But here's what it says, "The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of Jehovah, where the ark of God was."

The lamp of God had not yet gone out. Let's just say it was flickering, and then God brought Samuel on the scene, Samuel renewed the kingdom, Samuel, then anointed Saul, and later anointed David.

2 Samuel 21:17. You might remember this. But David, old guy, at least he was older, and he want to go out and fight with the younger fellas. This Philistine almost killed David. "Abishai the son of Zeruah came to his aid and attacked the Philistine and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, 'You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.'"

Beautiful expression. He was the light of Israel, he was David. Then David says in 2 Samuel 22:29, "You are my lamp, O Jehovah, and Jehovah illumines my darkness." Beautiful picture.

We know that "lamp" was not only a big thing in the temple and in the tabernacle, but lamps were a source of light, and He's telling them You are my light, You are my lamp. Psalm 119 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." Familiar passage.

Then Zechariah 4:2, "He said to me, 'What do you see?' I like this when God ask questions. I said, 'I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps, which are on the top of it.'" We're going to pick up on that in a succeeding broadcast.

I think I'll close with one more. Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, Who is in heaven."

I'm going to close with what I got this Easter. Jesus not only says, "Father forgive them, but they don't know what they're doing." I personally think that covered the Jews, that's who was crucifying Him.

I have heard people say, "Well, the reason that the Jews have been hounded and persecuted and the holocaust and everything is because they crucified Jesus." Jesus forgave them that day. That is not what is going on, so you can just get that right out of your head right now.

The second thing, though, is Jesus said, "If I be lifted up," and He was lifted up, "I will draw all men to myself." You know what? I'm praying for God to draw all men to Himself. I'm praying for God to watch over that word to fulfill it, just like He watches over all of His words to fulfill them, but when His Son utters those words.

I know it doesn't look like that, but I know that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that I can ask or think. I'm believing for God to draw all men to Himself. It might take a difficult season for our world, it might take the judgments of God, because when the judgments of God are near people learn righteousness, but I'm believing for that.

Father, thank you for making us lamps to the world. Thank you for giving us light, because of Jesus. Thank you for being our lamp. Thank you for your words, which are a lamp to our feet. I thank you that you are watching over your work perform it and you said that you, if you are lifted up, you will draw all men.

I'm believing today for You, to draw all men to Yourself because of what Jesus did when He took our sins upon Himself, and when you were separated from the Father, that, You, removed our sins from the East to the West. I believe for, You, to restore this globe, just the way You intended it in the Garden of Eden, 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@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.