

BFF322 Golden Lamp Stand, Menorah #4

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: I am well. How are you?

Scott: Good.

Steve: This is the season of Pentecost when this is being recorded since we have just celebrated Easter and the resurrection of Christ. We know from scripture that there-- seven weeks plus one day, or 50 days before Pentecost, so this was the season of Pentecost. Penta meaning 50. The special dispensation of the Spirit coincides with the oil in the lamp stand representing the Holy Spirit.

It can be difficult to study the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit continues to push Christ forward, which is why we're seeing Jesus in the tabernacle so well. The Holy Spirit is doing this. He's the instructor and He's the one that comes to bear witness of Jesus. The Holy Spirit has a significant part in the golden lampstand. We see the light, but there would be no light, if we didn't have oil. Let's pray.

Father, thank You for sending Your Spirit upon the church. Thank You for the Spirit raising Jesus from the dead, according to Romans 8. Thank You for the often neglected, and yet ever present, Spirit of God. Help us to tap into Your thoughts today as we study the oil in the menorah, in Jesus name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: Just a little review, and by the way the review is as much for me as for who's listening. I need to recall what we have studied just as much as our listeners.

Leviticus 24:1-4 "Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, 'Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you clear oil from beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually. Outside the veil of testimony in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall keep it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah continually; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations. He shall keep the lamps in order on the pure gold lampstand before Jehovah continually.'"

There are several thoughts in there. The sons of Israel were to bring the oil. Beaten olives provide the clear oil, so that the lamp can burn continually. It's to be in the tent of meeting, and Aaron is going to keep it in order. "Aaron shall keep it in order, and he shall keep the lamps in pure order on the pure gold lamp stand before God."

We read and studied last podcast about the church being the light of the world. Christ being, ultimately, the light. He is the lamp stand. He walked among the lamp stands. He's the Body of Christ, and we are parts of the lamp stand because we're parts of the Body of Christ.

I have been studying olives. Olive over the Bible. Sorry, that's a bad pun. Do you remember that right outside of Jerusalem is a mountain that apparently in the day,

and still today by the way, is covered and at least has a lot of olive trees? It's called the Mount of Olives.

Some translations refer to it as Olivet. I can't help but think that Jesus remembered David in 2 Samuel 15:30, "David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives weeping as he went barefoot and with his head covered."

This is when Absalom had taken over, and David was fleeing for his life. He was weeping, and going up the Mount of Olives. It's right across from the Golden Gate and the Lions' Gate on the east side of the Old City of Jerusalem. I can see this in my mind because I've been there.

When you come out the Lions' Gate which is also called St. Stephen's Gate, you go down through the Kidron Valley, and you go up the other side to the Mount of Olives. When you're standing on the Mount of Olives and look back, you have a beautiful view of the Old City, particularly, of Jerusalem. It's amazing.

Luke 19:29, "When He drew nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of his disciples to go to prepare for the Passover." **Luke 21:37**, "Every day He was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet."

Mathew 26:30, right before the crucifixion, "When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." Then Jesus told them, "Before the night is over, you are going to flee from me." Peter says, "No way." Of course, we know that he did.

In the 36th verse, same chapter, "Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane and He said to His disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'" As far as we know, it's at the foot of the Mount of Olives. There's still a garden there. I've been there, and it's awesome.

I did some research and discovered this gem, "There are still eight olive trees in that garden of Gethsemane. ... An analysis of the DNA from these trees found they were all derived from the same parent plant. Olive trees have the ability to send out shoots and pop up in other places." Jesus was a shoot from David's lineage, or David's root. "Experts say this was a deliberate effort, perhaps, to preserve the heritage of these trees for future generations, meaning that if these trees are not the same ones that were present in the garden they're at least directly descended from them." Isn't that cool?

These trees were perhaps witnesses to the Son of God crying and weeping. As we know, I think that was the turning point in our salvation is when the SPIRIT helped Him to say, "Nevertheless not my will, but Thine."

"Jesus ascended from the mount called Olivet." In Acts 1:11-12 the two angels said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet."

He will return to fulfill the promise in Zechariah 14. "I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle." That's in the second verse, 14:2. "Then Jehovah will go forth and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.

"In that day, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley."

This is the Mount of Olives. Olives are also mentioned in Romans 9–11. I'm going to read the 17th, the 24th, and the 25th verses. "If some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree..." 17th verse.

In 24, "If you were cut from what is, by nature, a wild olive tree and grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will the natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree? Lest you to be wise in your own sight. I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers. A partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

Israel is being likened to this cultivated tree. The Gentiles are the wild tree, but they are going to be grafted in. When the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, then the natural branches will be re-grafted, and all Israel will be saved. This is the Word of God.

Now, here's something that I didn't know. The emblem of Israel, if you were to see an emblem of the nation of Israel, it has a temple menorah, just what we've been talking about, with an olive branch on each side of it and the word "Israel" written in Hebrew at the bottom of it. Isn't that amazing?

Do you know where that image comes from? Zechariah 4. When I read that, and I saw the picture of it, and I saw the seven-branched menorah, and I saw the olive branches on both sides, of course, I think of Zechariah 4, which we're going to read.

I also thought, "The cups on each of these branches are shaped like almond blossoms." We haven't talked about that for a few weeks. That should've been almond blossoms on that emblem because almonds represent God telling Jeremiah, "I watch over My word to perform it. I watch over the promises I made to Israel, and I have performed it." One of those promises which He fulfilled is in May 14th, 1948, the physical nation of Israel was established.

That was and is a miracle. This nation was spread all over the world, especially in Europe. They suffered in the Holocaust. They were murdered by the millions, and yet a few years later, 1948, they started coming to the land of Israel, and David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir were among the architects of this rebirth. However ultimately God was watching over His word to perform it and the nation was born.

Zechariah 4:1–6, "The angel who talked with me came again and woke me like a man who is wakened out of his sleep, and he said to me, 'What do you see?' I said, 'I see and behold a lampstand all of gold with a bowl on top of it, and seven lamps on it

with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."

This the basis for the emblem of the nation of Israel, which has been restored. "And I said to the angel who talked with me, 'What are these, my lord?' Then the angel who talked with me answered and said, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' And he said, 'This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel -- Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' said Jehovah of hosts." Here is the Spirit tied in with the oil. "Then further down, he says, 'What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?' The second time, I answered and said to him, 'What are these two branches of the olive trees which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out.'

"He said to me, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.'"

Remember when David was anointed by Samuel, 1 Samuel 16:13, it says, "Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of Jehovah came mightily upon David from that day forward."

Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me because Jehovah has anointed me." Anointing is one of the many functions of the Spirit of God. Anointing is to set apart. It's to empower. It's to enable you to do wonderful things. These two men that appear in Zechariah 4 are the two anointed ones.

Revelation 11:3-4, "I will grant authority to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth."

These two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand are the two anointed ones. They're part of the menorah. They are pictured right on the emblem of the nation of Israel.

I don't know about you, but this is getting a lot deeper than we thought when we were just talking about a lamp. One of the elements that I have had in my notes for four weeks that I haven't read yet is that this is a lampstand that is one piece. We've mentioned it. It's one piece. It's hammered out of one huge chunk of gold.

This lampstand represents the church filled with the Spirit, filled with oil, burning brightly, shining its light to the world, but it's one piece. It's unified. You and I know that that is going to take a miracle. Perhaps some of that miracle will happen when these two anointed ones appear.

I personally believe that they will because the church is pouring oil out and burning for the world, but these two olive trees are supplying oil to the church. These two anointed ones are representing God and standing by Him in the last days.

The beast and the false prophet, are representing hell. God's men are filled with the Spirit, and they are pouring their oil into a unified church.

A couple of passages on the importance of unity. One of the reasons I believe we are going to be one is because of Jesus' prayer in John 17:20–23.

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

This is a big part of our role as believers, to believe what Jesus said and to pray for what He said to come to pass, for God to make us one.

Psalm 133:1–3. "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore." This is a picture of unity connected with oil.

Paul in Ephesians 4 talks about being one body, one Spirit, the unity of the Spirit, the bond of peace. This is what he was aiming for. This is what God has called for. This is what Jesus was praying for, and I believe he gets His prayers answered.

Revelation 4:4–5. "Around the throne were 24 thrones, and upon the thrones I saw 24 elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads. Out from the throne came flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder, and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."

There's so much here that I'm not able to delve into at this point, but there are seven lamps of fire. There are seven lamps of fire burning on the menorah, and these seven lamps are the seven Spirits.

We have seven churches. We have the seven Spirits of God. I like to think that even though there's one big menorah, there's a whole bunch of these little lamps, and each of us is one of those lamps.

Luke 12:35–36, "Stay dressed for action. Keep your lamps burning. Be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks." Keep your lamp burning. That's each of us. We each have a lamp. We're a part of that one main lampstand, the body of Christ.

The Parable of the 10 Virgins in Matthew 25 is very convicting. As I read this parable, I notice 10 virgins representing 10 believers. They each had a lamp, just like we each have a lamp. Five were foolish, five were wise because the foolish ones had let their oil go down. They didn't have enough oil when the bridegroom came. They tried to get some from the other folks, but there wasn't enough, and it was too late.

Luke says. "Keep your lamps burning. Be filled with the Spirit." I know I'm stepping on toes here. People say, "When you become a Christian, you've got all the Spirit there

is." Perhaps. I have no question that none of us could become Christians without the Spirit of God's conviction, and helping us to say Jesus is Lord.

However, Paul says, "Be filled with the Spirit." That's an ongoing command. Titus talks about the renewing of the Spirit. I think it should be a part of our day to read God's word, and ask God to fill us afresh with His Spirit so that we can have our lamps burning, and our lamp's full.

Whatever we need to do to work out our own salvation, we need to do it so that we have full lamps because the day is going to come when the bridegroom is going to show up, and we're going to need to have lamps that are full.

Now, I'm going to close with Acts 1:8–12. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." OK, pause here. This is going to shock people.

When did the Holy Spirit first come upon the disciples? It was in John 20:19–23, "Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

This was right after the resurrection. Yet, 50 days later, He told them to continue to wait for this power to come upon them, "and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. And when He said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:8–12)

We have an earnest of the Spirit when we are saved. And we can continue to seek Him, just like these disciples received the Spirit when Jesus breathed on them right after the resurrection. Then, for 50 days, He taught them. When He left them, He said, "Now continue to tarry. Continue to seek me until this power comes upon you."

I think we have all the biblical basis we need to approach God and say, "Come upon us in a fresh way. Fill us in a fresh way so that we can be one, so that we can be unified, so our lamps won't go out, and so we'll have oil to be a light to the world." Amen.

Steve: I didn't give you much time today. I was on a roll. Sorry.

Scott: That's all good.

Steve: I've been immersed in this subject since it is the season of Pentecost.

Scott: I'll tell you one thing I looked up while you were talking. I had this image in my head of the menorah as just candle holders with wax candles on them.

You're talking about oil, and I'm like, "Where's the oil go?" I looked up the lampstand, and I looked up pictures of it. I'm like, "It's actually filled with oil. It's not candles sitting on top of this thing." They're oil little receptacles, I guess, somehow. I don't know how it exactly worked.

Steve: I don't think they needed wicks. I think that that oil just came out. They had these little things shaped in such a way that they could have a little flame at the end, and it would draw the oil out of it. As a result, you had to keep them full.

Scott: If you're visual like me, it's really interesting. Also, if you google it, there's other pictures of the single lamp stands they would carry that's a little bowl with a lid on it, and then a little spout where the candle comes out. It gives you a better idea of maybe what the ladies were carrying in the parable of the virgins.

It helps me to see a picture of it. I'm like, "Wait a minute. I'm envisioning candles on this thing, and that doesn't sound like oil to me." Now I get it.

Steve: That's a great point. Thank you. I think they were the first century flashlights. They didn't have electricity, so you walked from room to room. You had these little ones that you'd carry with you.

Steve: Let's pray. Father, thank You so much. This incredible image that You have filled with so much meaning and depth, and here they are. Right on the emblem of the nation of Israel we see this menorah with these olive branches.

We notice that these olive branches, according to scripture, represent these two anointed ones. There's a lot of interplay between the church and between Israel, but the Word of God has both. We're embracing them, and we're believing You. We're believing You for unity. We're believing You for a filling of the Spirit. If the two anointed ones are alive today we ask that You will bless them and fill up their tanks in a way that they'll be fully able and equipped to pour oil into the church, and perhaps help it to become one.

I don't know how you're going to answer that prayer in John 17, but I know that every prayer that Jesus prayed will be answered to the letter, and every promise that You made will be fulfilled to the letter, and that's our confidence and our faith today. In Jesus name, fill all of our lamps, encourage us all today. 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.