

## #9 Lighting the Lamps

Crystallization-Study of Numbers (1) 2019/4/22-28

**I. Although many details regarding the Tent of Meeting were omitted in Numbers 8, God specifically instructed Aaron to light the lamps of the lampstand:**

**Num. 8:2-3** Speak to Aaron and say to him, When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps will give light in front of the lampstand. And Aaron did so; he set up its lamps to give light in front of the lampstand, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

**A.** After the offering of the twelve tribes of Israel and the speaking of God in Numbers 7, God instructed Moses to light the lamps; Numbers 8:1-2 says, "Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, ...When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps will give light in front of the lampstand": **1.** The seven lamps, signifying the seven Spirits, give light in front of the lampstand, shining toward the middle of the tabernacle; thus, the shining of the lamps was in the right direction for serving and moving; at this point God's people could begin to render their spiritual service to Him. **2.** The unique purpose of lighting the lamps was for offering, fighting, and moving; offering, fighting, and moving all require light.

**B.** Without the shining of the light, the children of Israel could not move, much less fight for God; therefore, as soon as they consecrated something to God as seen in Numbers 7, they immediately lit the lamps in order for the light to shine.

**C.** If God's people consecrate something to God, He will shine among them, and they will have light; in order for God's people to become His army, they must have light in order to fight, walk, and serve. **Rom. 13:12** The night is far advanced, and the day has drawn near. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light.

**(Mon)**

**II. The light of the lampstand is based on the strength of the priests' service:**

**A.** In 1 Samuel the lamp of God was about to go out because Eli the priest was weak and degraded. **1 Sam. 3:2-3** And at that time Eli lay in his place, and his eyesight had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see. And the lamp of God had not yet gone out. And Samuel lay in the temple of Jehovah, where the Ark of God was. **B.** The light in a local church cannot be bright unless we fulfill our priestly duty to burn the incense and light the lamps. **C.** Numbers 7 ends with God speaking in the Tent of Meeting, and chapter 8 begins with God's continued speaking concerning the lighting of the lamps for light: **1.** This sequence indicates that whenever God's word comes, His people receive light; thus, during the age of Eli the priest, when the word of Jehovah was rare, the lamps in the Holy Place were about to go out. **2.** Only when there is God's speaking in the church can light shine brightly among God's people; the ministering priests were able to minister and move because of the light of the lampstand. **3.** Moreover, the seven lamps giving light in the same direction signifies that even though each person has a distinct ministry in the Body, their direction is the same and their ministries are still one ministry. **4.** For example, Paul had his ministry, Peter had his ministry, and John had his ministry; nevertheless, their direction was toward Christ; they testified for Christ together; their light shone out from Christ and shone toward Christ; hence, their ministries were one.

**(Tue)**

**III. "You shall command the children of Israel to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually. In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall maintain it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah; it shall be a**

**perpetual statute to be observed throughout their generations by the children of Israel":**

**Exo. 27:20-21** And you shall command the children of Israel to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually. In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall set it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah; it shall be a perpetual statute to be observed throughout their generations by the children of Israel.

**A.** The olive tree signifies Christ, and the oil of beaten olives signifies the Spirit of Christ produced through Christ's process of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection. **B.** To make the lamps burn continually means literally "to cause the light of a lamp to ascend": **1.** The lampstand, signifying Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, was made of pure gold, but the wicks that burned to give off the light were of the plant life; in order to burn so that light would shine, the wicks had to be saturated with oil. **2.** The wicks signify the uplifted humanity of Christ, which burns with the divine oil to shine out the divine light. **(Wed)**

**C.** The tabernacle as the Tent of Meeting, the place where God met with His redeemed people and spoke to them, typifies the meeting of the church:

**Lev. 1:1** Then Jehovah called to Moses and spoke to him out of the Tent of Meeting, saying, **1.** Thus, in typology the lighting of the lamps points to the proper way to meet; everything done in the church meetings, whether praying, singing, praising, or prophesying, should cause the lamps to shine; this is to light the lamps in God's sanctuary so that the light may swallow up the darkness. **2.** Before the Testimony means before the law in the Ark, which was behind the veil: **a.** For the most part, the meeting of God's people is in the Holy Place, not in the Holy of Holies; however, we meet in the Holy Place with the expectation of entering the Holy of Holies. **b.** The light from the lamps enables us to see the different aspects of Christ, signified by the items of furniture in the Holy Place, and also the way leading into the Holy of Holies, into the depths of Christ within God. **(Thu)**

**D.** The holy task of lighting the lamps was a service of holy persons, the priests, not of the common people: **1.** According to the entire Bible, a priest is one who is possessed by God, filled with God, saturated with God, and living absolutely for God; furthermore, a priest had to be clothed with priestly garments, which signify Christ lived out of the priesthood. **Exo. 28:2** And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. **2.** The lighting of the lamps in the Holy Place requires the service of this kind of person. **Rev. 1:6** And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen. **E.** The light in the Holy Place was not a natural light or a man-made light; it was a light that came from the golden lampstand, that is, from the divine nature of Christ. **F.** To experience the genuine lighting of the lamps in the church meetings, we must have Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, as the lampstand, the divine nature as the gold, the uplifted humanity of Christ as the wick, and the Spirit of Christ as the oil with all the steps of Christ's process, and we must be holy people as the priests, clothed with the expression of Christ as the priestly garments. **G.** The priests were to maintain the lamps from evening to morning before Jehovah: **1.** Nothing is said in Exodus 27:21 about the day; the present age is the night, not the day. **Exo. 27:21** In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall set it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah; it shall be a perpetual statute to be observed

throughout their generations by the children of Israel. **2.** Hence, we need the light to shine during this age of night until the day dawns. **[Fri]**

**IV. The seven lamps of the golden lampstand are the seven Spirits before God's throne, the seven lamps of fire burning before God's throne: Rev. 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there are seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. **A.** In the universe God has a center of administration, which is His throne. **B.** God is administering and moving from His throne to execute His eternal policy. **C.** The seven lamps of fire burning before God's throne signifies that the seven lamps are absolutely related to God's administration, economy, and move.**

**V. To know God's administration and economy we must have the light of the golden lampstand from the seven shining and illuminating lamps:**

**A.** Natural light cannot help us to know God's economy, administration, and eternal purpose. **B.** The light of the lampstand is the light in the Holy Place, which typifies the church. **C.** Once we enter into the realm of the church, we are enlightened to know God's eternal purpose, His heart's intention, and His economy, and we also know which path we should take for the journey before us toward God's goal. **D.** In God's sanctuary (in our spirit and in the church) we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problems. Psa. 73:16-17 When I considered this in order to understand it, it was a troublesome task in my sight. Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

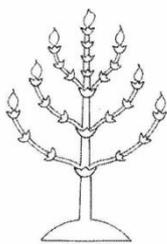
**VI. According to Revelation 4, the emphasis with the seven burning lamps of fire is on the move of God's administration:**

**A.** Christ carries out His mission as the Ruler of the Kings of the earth by the seven burning Spirits before the throne to sovereignly control the world situation so that the environment might be fit for God's chosen people to receive His salvation. **B.** The flame of the seven burning Spirits judges, purifies, and refines the church to produce the golden lampstands. **C.** The burning of the fiery lamps is not only for shining and burning but also for motivating us to rise up and take action for the carrying out of God's economy. **[Sat]**

#### Explanation of terms

**A. Priest's garment:** If we do not have the expression of Christ in our daily life, whatever we do in the church meetings become hypocrisy. ...If we do not possess priest's garment, we are not equipped or qualified to light the lamps. The qualification for priest to light the lamps in the Holy Place is the expression of Christ.

**B. Lampstand in the Holy Place:**



There are seven lamps on this lampstand. This typifies God's Spirit has been intensified sevenfold. There is one lampstand, but there are seven lamps on it. Similarly, there is one Spirit of God, but its lighting, burning functions are being intensified sevenfold.

**Crucial Point (1): God's speaking is the lighting of the lamps for light**

**OL1:** The light of the lampstand is based on the strength of the priests' service. In 1 Samuel the lamp of God was about to go out because Eli the priest was weak and degraded. **OL2:** Numbers 7 ends with God speaking in the Tent of Meeting, and chapter 8 begins with God's continued speaking concerning the lighting of the lamps

for light. This sequence indicates that whenever God's word comes, His people receive light.

Each local church should be so bright that once people enter in, all their situations are fully exposed so that they cannot help saying, "God is indeed among you, because my secrets have been thoroughly revealed under the shining of your light. This light is even more penetrating than an x-ray." The church is the Holy Place, the church is the lampstand.

Not only so, in the church there is also the priesthood for the burning of the incense....Each one of us has a share in the priesthood. We are all kings and priests, and we all have to learn to fulfill our duty of burning the incense. When we light the lamps, we have to burn the incense....We have to pray at night and in the morning so that the light of God may shine brightly among us. The light should be so bright that the illumining of the light becomes God's move, His administration, His government in the universe, and His economy on earth today. This is not a small matter. Whenever God's word comes, His people receive light. Thus, during the age of Eli the priest, when the word of Jehovah was rare, the lamps in the Holy Place were about to go out. Only when there is God's speaking in the church can light shine brightly among God's people.

#### For Young Working/Graduate Student Saints

You, as a business person or researcher, need to hear the word of God every day and burn the spirits. Without the word of God, there is no light, it will be in the dark. In the age of Eli, the word of God was rare, so there was little light and it was a dark age. You should not think that "It is not bad because you have 5 wins and 2 losses, even if you do not recover every morning for about 2 days in a week." Lack of light and lack of God's word is an extremely serious problem. You have to revive every morning seven times a week. How can you cope properly when the trials come that day in the dark without praying and reading the word and without the light? So it's extremely important for you to do 365 times a year every morning. If you do not eat every day, you will easily get sick. Similarly, if you do not pray-read every morning, you will easily get stuck in Satan's trap. Make sure to build up the habit of morning revival.

Don't say that you don't have the time and power to do morning revival or join church life because you are busy with your business or research life. You can do as much as you do. May the fire burn inside of you and motivate you to do more.

**Testimony of the responsible brother:** I experienced various promotion opportunities in my business life. At first, it was difficult to identify whether it was the Lord's blessing or Satan's temptation. At that time, my practice of morning revival was not full of light, with the situation like "6 wins and 1 lose" a week. However, from about 20 years ago, I have done my best to get revived every morning and try to do it thoroughly. This has given me the light and the ability to escape from the temptation and trials in the company. I was invited to be appointed as a US headquarters officer in October 2016. About a week before that, under the fellowship of the church with the Lord, I was determined to "resign from the company because I am too busy." Therefore, under the light of the Lord, I was able to refuse the invitation for promotion immediately without any doubt. As a result, more time can be spent on the service of the church, and the church can be advanced. Thank the Lord.

In addition, please take part in the prayer meetings, small group meetings, and the Lord's day meetings, and

exercise the spirit to speak out and supply people Christ that you experienced in the morning revival, business life, etc. If all the brothers and sisters of the church do this, the local church will be brighter and brighter.

**Prayer:** "O Lord Jesus, your words give me the light of the lamp. May I pray-read your words 365 times a year, be revived every morning, listen to the speaking of God, and begin the day with the light. In order to make the local church brighter and brighter, let's be able to speak out Christ, which we experienced in our business life and research life, at a meeting and supply others. Amen! Hallelujah!"

**Crucial Point ②:** Having humanity saturated with oil to keep burning

**OL1:** The olive tree signifies Christ, and the oil of beaten olives signifies the Spirit of Christ produced through Christ's process of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection. **OL2:** The lampstand, signifying Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, was made of pure gold, but the wicks that burned to give off the light were of the plant life; in order to burn so that light would shine, the wicks had to be saturated with oil. The wicks signify the uplifted humanity of Christ, which burns with the divine oil to shine out the divine light.

The lampstand is the embodiment of the Triune God. With the gold we have the nature of the Father, the divine nature; with the form, the shape, of the lampstand, we have the Son; and with the lamps of the lampstand, we have the expression of the Spirit. Therefore,...the light in the Holy Place issues from the Triune God. With this golden lampstand, there is no mixture. With the exception of the wick, everything is golden.

The light of the lampstand comes from the burning of the wick...The wick signifies Christ's humanity. Yes, Christ is divine, golden. But it is His humanity, signified by the wick that burns with oil. If the wick had not been saturated with oil, it would give off smoke instead of light. This is the reason **Exodus 27:20** speaks of bringing "pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually."

In the center of the lamps there were the wicks. These wicks were not of gold; on the contrary, they were of the plant life. Because gold does not burn, it cannot give light. It is the wicks that burn to give light. However, in themselves it is very difficult for the wicks to give off light. Instead of giving off light, they give off smoke. This is the reason it is necessary to saturate the wicks with oil in order to have light.

In typology oil signifies the Spirit of God. Oil comes from olive trees, and the olive tree signifies Christ. In the sight of God, Christ is the real olive tree.

Within the lamps are the wicks, and...the wicks signify Christ's humanity. The wicks burn with oil, and the oil signifies the Spirit of God. What we have today is not only the Spirit of God, but the Spirit of Christ. The Spirit of God has become the Spirit of Christ. Just as olives pass through a process to produce olive oil, so the Spirit of Christ has passed through a process. For us today, the oil with which the wicks burn signifies the Spirit of Christ.

**For Junior/Senior High School and College Studentes**

A center of the lamp is a wick which is of plant. The wick absorbs oil to burn and light. Here the plant life signifies humanity. While Christ has lived on earth, His humanity has been filled with oil. In the same manner, unless your humanity is being filled with oil, you may not be able to keep burning. You may have done the experiment using an alcohol

lamp when you were the fourth grade. The lamp here is the same as the alcohol lamp. For your humanity to be filled with oil and your inward being to keep burning, please practice the followings. :

**(1) Morning Revival:** Read above section of Application for Working Saints for this point.

**(2) Enjoy church life with your companions of the same age group:** **2Timothy 2:22** But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. You need a spiritual partner of your age. Please have a spiritual partner with whom you pray for each other, praise hymnal together, pray-read the Word together, and join the meeting together. Then your will be protected and advanced in your church life.

**(3) You need brothers/sisters who lead you:** **Hebrew13:7** Remember the ones leading you, who have spoken to you the word of God; and considering the issue of their manner of life, imitate their faith. You need not only a partner of your same age but also shepherds who lead you. They speak the word of God to you to supply you and lead you from the point of God's economy.

**(4) Join the Lord's Day Meeting and family meetings:** From childhood, sanctify your morning of the Lord's day for the Lord. This brings you blessings. In addition, please have a time with brothers/sisters for about 10-30 minutes to read the Word or pray together. You can have this kind of family meeting using LINE or other SNS service. **(5) College student saints or high school student saints visit elementary school kids and junior high school students.** College students and high school students should visit elementary school kids and junior high school students to shepherd them. One who blesses others will be blessed. So, if you do visit them, you will become a person filled with oil.

**Prayer:** "O Lord Jesus, to keep burning, let me become a person filled with oil. Lead me to revive every morning and continue burning with my partners and leading brothers/sisters. I treasure meetings and sanctify my time. Also, help me to take care brothers and sisters younger than me. Give me grace to practice these. I ask You this in the name of the Lord. Amen!"

**Crucial Point ③:** Enter into the Holy Place to receive the complete explanation to your questions

**OL1:** To know God's administration and economy we must have the light of the golden lampstand from the seven shining and illuminating lamps. **OL2:** In God's sanctuary (in our spirit and in the church) we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problems.

In the tabernacle it was dark, having neither sunlight nor moonlight. However, in the Holy Place there was a golden lampstand, which had not only one lamp but seven lamps shining and illuminating...The light of the seven bright lamps dictated all the actions of the priests in the tabernacle. This is the way of God's administration, government, and economy.

In Psalm 73 the psalmist saw a situation that puzzled him and was difficult to comprehend. The more he looked at it, the more it was unclear to him; the more he analyzed it, the more it did not make sense and the more he became befuddled. Eventually, he said, "When I considered this in order to understand it, / It was a troublesome task in my sight, / Until I went into the sanctuary of God; / Then I perceived their end" (Psa. 16-17). This shows us that when he went into the sanctuary, the Holy Place, he understood. Likewise, many among us can give such a testimony: "Until I came into the church, then I understood." Very often we face problems, and we remain perplexed after much pondering over them.

Nevertheless, once we come to the meetings, immediately we understand....Why is this? It is because in the Holy Place there is the shining of the seven lamps.

As long as we come into the realm of the church, all we have to do is sit in the meetings, and meeting after meeting we will become clear inwardly. We will receive a thorough understanding of human life, and we will become completely clear about God's will. We will be crystal clear about God's economy, and we will know the age that we are in today. This is due to the light in the Holy Place....This is because in the Holy Place is the throne, the One who sits on the throne, and the presence of God, and before the throne of God is the shining of the seven burning lamps of fire. Once we enter into this realm, immediately we are clear. We know God's eternal purpose, His heart's intention, and His economy, and we also know which path we should take for the journey before us. This is due to the light in the Holy Place.

Whenever we come together to meet as the church, that meeting is in God's dwelling place. It is very important to remember this. Our gathering is a sanctuary....No matter where we may meet, in a building or in the open air, our gathering is the Holy Place. For this reason, we should not meet in a natural way or in a secular way. Everything we do in the meeting—our speaking, singing, praising, calling, shouting, pray-reading—must cause the holy light to ascend. This is to light the lamps in God's sanctuary so that the light may swallow up the darkness.

The burning of the fiery lamps is not only for shining and burning but also for motivating....Before the throne are seven burning lamps of fire for impelling us. Perhaps some would say that they cannot do it. The more we do not do something, the more we cannot do it. This is a principle in the Bible. To everyone who has, more shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, that is, who does not use what he has, even that which he has shall be taken away from him. We cannot do it simply because we do not do it....The more I do it, the more I can do it.

### Application for Gospel Preaching Activity

April is a month for the Gospel Preaching Activities. In the first half, 24 people have been baptized. Each one of those has been brought through work of the triune God and our cooperation to it. I would like to list up what are crucial in our preaching gospel. **(1) Gospel preaching is the work of Holy Spirit.** Preaching gospel is not our work. God the Father has chosen, God the Son redeemed the one whom the Father has chosen, and God the Spirit is seeking the one whom the Father has chosen and the Son has redeemed. We go out to preach gospel to meet the sons of peace whom God the Spirit is seeking. Without the work of Triune God, our gospel preaching will be empty and no effect at all. **(2) Never be full of conceit by having baptized a few.** Our natural person has full of pride, so when we baptized several people, we tend to think "I am good". However, this is a trap of Satan. If you become proud, you will be against God and actually become a follower of Satan. You need to confess your sins of pride and carelessness thoroughly, and then you will be filled with the Holy Spirit. **(3) The more you go out to preach gospel, the more you become able to preach gospel.** The less you join the gospel preaching, the more you become impossible to preach gospel. The more you practice gospel preaching, the more you become able to preach gospel. **(4) Bring new ones to the Holy Place.** Before a person comes to a church meeting, which is

the Holy Place, he stumbled, troubled and complained about seemingly conflicted matters. By coming to the Holy Place, we were able to obtain the complete answer against what we have complained about before. Hallelujah! Now we are going forward on the line of God's economy. We can provide such wonderful experiences to the new ones by gospel preaching. Therefore, we have a great joy when a certain person is saved and brought to the church.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, thank you for your blessings in this gospel preaching activity. Let me be apart from self-conceit, but work together with the Holy Spirit to find out the sons of peace. It is the highest joy to me not only to save gospel friends from being perished in the lake of fire, but also bring them to the church meeting, the Holy Place, so that they may obtain the complete explanation to their questions. Praise the Lord."

### I. The High Gospel Topic 15 Baptism (1)

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name (name is singular) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

#### What is Baptism

To believe is to receive the Slave-Savior not only for forgiveness of sins but also for regeneration. Those who thus believe become the children of God and the members of Christ in an organic union with the Triune God. To be baptized is to affirm this matter. On the one hand, by being buried in the water to terminate the old creation through the death of the Slave-Savior. On the other hand, by being raised up from the water to be the new creation of God through the Slave-Savior's resurrection. To believe and to be so baptized are two parts of one complete step for receiving the full salvation of God. To be baptized without believing is merely an empty ritual; to believe without being baptized is to be saved only inwardly without an outward affirmation of the inward salvation. These two should go together. Moreover, water baptism should be accompanied by Spirit baptism, even as the children of Israel were baptized in the sea—water, and in the cloud—the Spirit.

Baptism is not a form or ritual; it signifies that we are united with Christ. Through baptism we are immersed into Christ, taking Him as our realm, that we may be united with Him as one in His death and resurrection.

We were born in the sphere of Adam, the first man, but through baptism we have been transferred into the sphere of Christ, the second man. When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His death. His death has separated us from the world and the satanic power of darkness and has terminated our natural life, our old nature, our self, our flesh, and even our entire history.

#### The Importance of Baptism

To believe is to believe into Christ, and to be baptized is to be baptized into Christ. By faith and baptism we have entered into Christ, having thus put on Christ and be united with Christ as one. Baptism practiced in a proper, genuine, and living way puts the believers into the name of the Triune God, the divine name; into Christ, a living person; into the death of Christ, and effective death; and into the Body of Christ, a living organism, that the believers may enter into an organic union not only with Christ but also with His Body.

Furthermore, baptism brings the believers out of their old state into a new one, terminating their old life and germinating them with the new life of Christ that they may live in the Body of Christ, and organism, by the elements of the Triune God.