

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 8th January 2023

**Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymn Ps 40v1-5, Ballerma 263, 265, 390 Read
Exodus 25:31-40 Text Exodus 25:31**

**Series – The Tabernacle series (6) Title The Candlestick
(1)**

In our studies of the Tabernacle, we have focused upon the outer court, such as the fence, the only gate, the brazen altar and the brazen laver.

Now we come to the tent of the tabernacle, moving from outside to inside, from public worship to private worship.

The tent of the tabernacle was separated in two parts by a veil.

The first half was called the holy place, and then second part called the holy of holies.

Within the Holy place, were three pieces of furniture,

the altar of incense (before the veil, which separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place), the table of shewbread on the right side, and the golden candlestick (the menorah) on the left side.

Today we will focus upon the part half of the tent, and one of the three pieces of furniture within it called the candlestick.

It must be stated at the very outset while in the English it is called a candlestick, yet that is not what it was. There were no candles upon it.

In fact, the Hebrew word is Menorah, or Menorah stand, which was really a lampstand and was lit by using a cloth like material, and oil.

However, we will use the word candlestick in keeping with words in the text.

When you study the three items within the Holy place, you will discover among material that the order of the three are varied, for instance, some start with the candlestick, then table of shewbread then the altar of incense.

Others start with the table of shewbread, the candle stick, then the altar of incense. Or some start with the altar of incense and so on.

In a true sense, since every piece of furniture within the holy place speaks of the person and work of Jesus Christ, they are all connected, and cannot be separated.

However, as I began to study the holy place for myself, I feel it good to start with the candlestick.

The reason being, whenever the holy place was made, there was no windows in place, meaning there was no natural light to shine forth,

that is vital, because the priest entered into the holy place to represent the people before God, and he would take of the table of shewbread and pray at the altar of incense.

Therefore, he needed to see where he was going and how he was to serve.

The candlestick gave light, and that light was reflected by the golden boards with in the holy place.

In **Ex 40** the Lord gave instruction about the placement, of each piece of furniture, in **verse 24** ***“and he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation over against the table...”*** The opposite side. The light shined upon the table of shewbread.

As the priest, entered the tent, to serve, and fellowship with God, he did so by faith considering the promised Redeemer in His

glorious person and gospel ministry, which He would fulfil in a future day.

Therefore, believer, as we are accepted in the beloved, and as we serve God and have fellowship with God, upon the basis of our Saviour's perfect person and atoning work, we learn from Christ words in **John 15:5** "... **for without me ye can do nothing.**" He is our light.

Furthermore, we learn, that the holy place speaks of fellowship with God in heaven as it is within the veil. Whereas, outside the veil speaks of fellowship with God upon earth.

Outside the tent, was the outer court where the Brazen Altar and the Brazen Laver were positioned. As both were made of brass metal that symbolised judgment, sin was dealt with, put away.

The Worshipper was taught by faith, the Eternal Penalty of sin was put away at the Brazen Altar by the blood of a substitutionary sacrifice on their behalf.

Then the daily pollution of sin was cleansed at the Brazen Laver. They taught cleansing through the blood and book, through the son and the scriptures.

Now, within veil, none of these items are made of brass, but gold.

We moved from a place of judgment to Glory.

While we enjoy fellowship with God earth, yet we are deflected by our sin, our flesh and failures.

Yet one day we will enter heaven, where fellowship will be without sin, sorrow and night.

Our eyes will be taken up with the Christ our candlestick, and as His branches, we shall serve Him.

By using the Candlestick, God was teaching Moses and the people by object lesson that Jesus Christ not only upon earth was as **John 8:12** “...*I am the light of the world, He that followeth, me shall no walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*”

But also, in the heavenly city, as **Rev 21:23** “*and the city has no need of the sun, neither the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God, did lighten it, and the lamb is the light thereof.*”

Christ is the light, and glory of Immanuel’s land.

I FIRST THE BEAUTY OF THE CANDLESTICK.

We read in **verse 31** “*thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold...*” **verse 39** “*of a talent of pure gold shall be make it...*”

The candlestick was made of pure gold and was only seen by the priests as they entered within the veil.

They beheld its glorious sight, and design. The making of the candlestick was from a block of pure gold.

It’s weight, according to one a commentator “*a talent of pure gold*,” weighed about 125 pounds, though others suggest around 100 pounds.

Its worth, pure gold was costly, expensive, and of great value.

Its wealth to have gold was nations wealth and honour.

There was gold in Egypt, and when the children of Israel left Egypt, we read, in **Exodus 12:35** “*they borrowed of the Egyptians of silver and jewels of gold and raiment.*”

Also during such times when visiting or in the presence of royalty Gold was presented as a gift.

In **I Kings 10:12** we learn when Queen of Sheba or south visited King Solomon she came with ***very much Gold.***

1 Kings 10:14 reveals that the weight of King Solomon's Gold was 600 threescore and 6 talents of gold. Gold spoke of wealth.

Putting all this together, we have a clear picture of our Lord Jesus Christ in His deity, He is God.

Remember, at His birth, when the wise men came to worship Him the King. They brought gifts and presented them to Him.

One of the gifts, **Matthew 2:11** was gold. Paul said in **Col 2:9** "**in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.**"

Christ is of infinite worth. His value is beyond compare. **Rom 2:4** speak of "**the riches of His goodness...**" **Rom 11:33** "**O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God.** **Eph 1:7** "...**the riches of His grace.**"

Eph 2:4 He is "**rich in mercy.**" as Peter said in **1 Peter 5:11** "**unto Him be glory and dominion for ever, and ever, Amen.**"

To the children of God, as priests unto God, we say with Peter in **1 Peter 2:7** "**unto you therefore, which believe He is precious.**"

That is the key, because **1 Cor 2:14** "**the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him. neither can he know them, because they are spiritual discerned.**" In our fallen state, Christ was not precious to us.

John 1:5 referring to Christ "**the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**" The words **comprehended it not** mean **cannot perceive, or understand.**

The natural man spiritually dead, and dwelling in darkness, could not see Christ as God, but only a blasphemer.

John 1:10-11 "**He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not,**" **v11** "**He came unto His own and His own received Him not.**" **Isaiah 53** writing about

the suffering of the Cross, said in **Isa 53:2-3** ***“He is despised and rejected of men... We hid as it were our faces from Him...”*** **v2** ***“when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.”***

But when we come to the Brazen Altar, which speaks of Calvary, redemption from the Penalty of sin through the blood of Christ, and then the Brazen laver for continual cleansing from the pollution by the Scripture of truth, then we can say, Jesus shall ever be precious to me.

Solomon wrote in **Song of Solomon 5:16** ***“Yeah He is altogether lovely.”***

Also, **2:16** ***“my beloved is mine and I am His...”*** To have Christ as Saviour, is to ***“rejoice with joy unspeakable and fully of glory.”*** **Ephesian 5:8** ***“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”***

I still stand amazed in presence of Jesus the Nazarene and wonder how He could me a sinner condemned unclean.

Praise the Lord for amazing and abounding grace. Grace that is marvellous and matchless.

Grace greater than all my sin, Grace that calls me to salvation and covers me from sin. It is Grace that will lead us on.

To the carnal mind and natural man, there is no beauty in Christ to desire Him, but to His redeemed people, in union to Him we love Him because He first loved us.

To live is Christ, is to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

I THE BEAUTY OF THE CANDLESTICK.

II SECOND, THE BEATING TO MAKE THE CANDLESTICK.

We read in **verse 31** ***“thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold of beaten work shall the candlestick be made. ...”***

It is clear from these words the solid gold metal was beaten into a particular shape with a stem and branches.

It is interesting to note that the word **beaten** means **hammer or to hammer**. The gold was beaten, it was hammered by man under the command of God.

We are less to the sufferings of Christ, **Acts 2:23** "**Him be delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.**"

Can you imagine, the strength that went into each strike, each blow upon the solid gold to shape it.

Therefore, the beating or hammering to make the candlestick, speaks to us of the sufferings of Jesus Christ both in body and soul.

Before our Saviour's hands and feet were nailed to the cross, He was beaten or hammered by His enemies.

Remember, Pilate said in **Luke 23:16** "**I will chastise Him...**" **Matthew 27:26** he "**scourged Jesus.**"

Of this scene, **Ps 129:3** says "**the plowers plowed upon my back, they made long their furrows.**" **Matthew 27:30** "...**and smote Him on the head.**" **Isa 53:5** "**He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him...**" **Isa 50:6** "**I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair, I hid not my face from shame and spitting.**"

Isa 52:14 "**His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.**" **Ps 22** prophesying about the Cross, wrote of Christ's body in **verse 14...** "**all my bones are out of joint...**" **verse 17** "**I may tell all my bones they look and stare upon me.**" He was beaten in body.

He suffered also in soul as all the wrath of God, the punishment of our sin was visited upon Him.

He was as **Isaiah 53:4** says "...***stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.***" Christ said upon the cross, about the ninth hour, in **Matthew 27:46** "...***Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me?***" **Isaiah 53:10** "***it pleased to the Lord to bruise Him.***"

The word **bruise** means **to crush** or we can use the word in **Ex 25:31**, ***beaten or hammered.*** It pleased to Lord to ***bruise, crush, beat hammer Him.*** That's how strong the meaning is.

On the cross the Lord Jesus was receiving the wages of sin which were due His people. **Gal 3:13** "***He was made a curse for us...***" He had no sin of His own, for He was the Holy One of God. But He took responsibility for the sins of His people.

The Bible says in **Isa 59:2** "***But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that he will not hear.***"

Sin separates, cuts men off from God, and that's why we see Christ the bearer of sin forsaken, cut off, abandoned, by the Father.

God turned away from Christ while He was suffering the stroke of wrath, the penalty and punishment of sin.

Therefore, Christ was forsaken, abandoned, separated as He had taken our place and was suffering the Just for the unjust. Peter said in **1 Peter 2:24** that Christ "***bore our sins in His own body to the tree...***" This was the only way, to bring sinners unto God.

God's claim against all who believe in Him, have been fully met. Christ was forsaken of God for a season that we might enjoy His presence for ever within the veil.

Men and woman who have refused Christ as Saviour, do you grasp this truth.

If you forsake Christ in life, He will forsake you in death and through all eternity.

You will be eternally forsaken to perish for your sin. In eternal hell Christ will be your Judge to punish you.

If God did not spare His Son, He will not spare you.

But if you today will believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to take away sin, He was hammered, bruised, crushed, to purchase His church, then trust in Him, and He will save you from wrath to come.

As we consider the candlestick we have learned of its beauty and beating.

God willing next time we will consider some more thoughts of Christ as seen by the candlestick.

Closing Hymn 390