

Stark Road Summer Ministry Meetings on The Tabernacle
The Holy Place, Table of Shewbread, Lampstand, Altar of Incense

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I. Introduction to Holy Place

A. Holy Place

1. Holy Place
 - Heavenly Sanctuary
 - Near/In Presence of God
 - Christ in heaven now on our behalf
2. Sanctuary
 - Tabernacle - *Exodus 25:8*
 - Assembly - *I Corinthians 3:16*

B. Articles of Furniture

1. Table-Fellowship with God
2. Lampstand-Relationship with God
3. Altar of Incense-Worship toward God

C. Events In The Holy Place - It was a place of silence-only the furniture spoke.
There was a holy reverence.

1. Daily
2. Weekly
3. Day of Atonement/ Special Occasions

II. The Table of Shewbread

A. Readings: *Exodus 25:23-30; Lev.24:5-9; John 6:32-33; I Cor. 10:16-17*

B. Overview-Shewbread of 12 large loaves (unleavened bread) placed on table.
Table was acacia wood covered with gold. It was placed there on the 7th day by priests and the bread was before God in the Holy Place. God shared with the priest after 7 days. This idea of communion is enjoying what God enjoys. The typical truth is that we (priests) present Christ to God in worship. God presents Christ to us as bread upon which we feed.

1. Names
 - Presence Bread-in presence of God
 - Bread of Faces-idea of before face of God
2. Position in Holy Place-north side against (across from) the Lampstand
3. Purpose/Meaning/Significance-The Bread speaks of Lord Jesus Christ as substance of communion with God. His perfect life on Earth displayed and proved by God to be perfectly acceptable and pleasing to God.
 - *Matt. 3:17* Christ is the substance of fellowship with God and man.
4. Links To Other Truths
 - Against (across) from then Lampstand
 - Drink offering poured out at the table -joy from communion with God

- Ark/Mercy Seat same height as table-basis of communion is Christ

C. Dimensions of Table

1. Height-1 ½ cubits (2.5 ft)-same as Mercy Seat
 - Bread-Christ perfect manhood elevated in Holy Place to throne of God (Mercy Seat). The Lord Jesus is coequal to the Father
2. Length-2 cubits (3ft)
 - *Amos 3:3*...two walk together only if agreed.
 - Fellowship
3. Width-1 cubit (1.5 ft)
 - Unity- fellowship- complete agreement based on unchanging Doctrine of Christ

D. Composition of Table

1. Acacia Wood
 - perfect manhood of Lord Jesus
 - incorruptible
2. Gold
 - Deity of Christ and resurrected glory

E. Contents of the Table

1. Shewbread-Type of Christ
 - Flour from the Earth- intrinsic character of Lord Jesus. It speaks of Flesh. (*John 1:14*...word became flesh)
 - Fine- Lowly unobtrusive sinless character of Lord Jesus. Perfect from the beginning. His life needed no processing, discipline. He had no pride or harshness.
 - Baked- Trials of God's Fire. Manifested purity of Christ
 - Cakes of Shewbread (challoth) -pierced cakes helped baking. Piercing speaks of death. His subjection to God in trials and searching of His person by God's Holy Word.
 - Frankincense-Pure white fragrant substance placed on bread. Purity and Fragrance manifested by Lord Jesus toward God in words, actions, thoughts. All pure and all well pleasing to God.
 - Loaves-large. Each 2/10 deals-double portion. Christ is food for God and priest. Delights God and his people.
2. Shewbread-Picture of God's People
 - 12 Loaves-speaks of 12 tribes- God's people. Every tribe represented equally before God, despite of different size, capability, faithfulness. Amazing grace of God. We all stand accepted in beloved despite our weakness and failings.

F. Ornamentation of the Table

1. Crown Secures the Bread
 - Christ glorified in Heaven(*Heb 2:9*) secures our standing before God. The crown protected the bread while traveling.
2. Border of A Hand Breath (*John 10:28*)
 - Eternal Security
 - Separation to God from the world and doctrinal error
 - God is jealous about his Son and truth related to Him.
3. Outside Crown
 - Glory of God Himself concerned with preservation of His people. Reinforces the impossibility of believers being lost.

4. Rings and Staves
 - Table went with the people everywhere.
5. Coverings-3 coverings
 - Blue
 - Scarlet
 - Badger skins

G. Association with the Drink Offering-Numbers 28:7

1. Drink Offering associated with joy. True joy is from communion with God about his Son.
2. Israel corporately offered burnt offering of sacrificed lamb.
 - Sweet savor to God at brazen alter.
 - Same time the drink offering poured out at Holy Place.
 - As each sinner appreciated the sacrifice. *Luke 15:7*...joy in Heaven over one sinner that repents. The joy is not from creation but from redemption.

H. Summary- May the Lord Jesus Christ be the object of our souls that a real and practical communion about him shall be the result.

III. TheCandlestick= Lampstand

A. Readings-*Exodus25: 31-40; Hebrews 2:11-13*

B. Overview- The Candlestick was a large all golden lampstand which provided light for the priest during his daily activities at the table and the alter of incense. The priest trimmed the lampstand wicks which burned with olive oil in the evening and morning to provide a bright light for the Holy Place.

1. Name-Mnourah
 - Lightbearer
 - Lampstand (no candles)
2. Position
 - Against the Table of Shewbread
 - South side of the Holy Place
 - South-Hebrew word south=bright, radiant, place of warmth and blessing
3. Purpose/Main Truth
 - Shine brightly and light the Holy Place
 - Illuminated itself
 - Cast light upon the Table
 - Cast light upon the Alter of Incense
 - Shed light before the Lord
4. Type
 - Resurrected Christ in presence of God.
 - Lampstand- God's gracious provision. He has made for his own people during interval of Darkness between 1st and 2nd coming of the Holy Spirit.

- Picture of Christ and Church-fashioned by hand of omniscient God through the work on the cross by his eternal counsel, wisdom, and grace.

5. Links

- Daily trimming of the lamps occurred same time the incense was offered.

C. Dimension and Composition-Exodus 25:31

1. Pure gold(solid)

- No wood
- Deity of Christ emphasized glory
- Deity sustained humility
- Resurrection glory-presupposed his incarnation/death

2. Beaten Work

- 1 talent=80-120 lbs. gold
- Hammers used to craft Lampstand from one solid piece of gold.
- Amazing Truth- Divine wisdom used to craft beautiful symmetrical form creating a central shaft, central branch, 6 branches, ornaments of almonds
- Type-suffering Christ(beatn) and now glorified for his complete and perfect work.
- Relationship-The branches are one piece out of the shaft and we are one with Christ. *Hebrews 2:11-13* tells of the great price that He paid to call us brothers.
- No Measurements-infinite preciousness of the Lord Jesus. He was all sufficient to manifest the effulgence of the glory of the Godhead. 7 is the only number of perfection. Christ is All!

D. Construction and Ornamentation of Lampstand

1. Pattern (Ex. 25:31-36)

- Central (His) Shaft-thigh *Genesis 24:2; Genesis 46:26*
- Central (His) Branch- 4 bowls, knops (buds), flowers. Type is that Christ is head of the Church and in the midst of his fellows, yet he is supreme in his preeminence.
- 6 Branches-3 on each side
- Each branch has a knop, a flower, a bowl of Almond.
- Almond is a symbol of Resurrection- Aaron's rod budded. Almond tree is first to bud in Palestine. The idea of progression of bud, flower, and then fruit.
- Seven Lamps-2 types. Type of Christ-the brightness of God's glory. Type of Holy Spirit-Holy Spirit in his power and perfection. *Rev. 1:4*

E. Significance of the Lampstand

1. Beaten Gold and Almond Ornamentation- suffering Christ now risen and glorified.
2. Inside the Holy Place- Christ now hidden from the World and only enjoyed by the priestly family.
3. Seven Lamps of Oil-complete sufficiency of Spirit as Christ's gift to His people while he is gone.
 - Present Type- Seven branches stand supporting lighted lamps which foreshadow the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit. As a result of His suffering (beaten work) and his resurrection

(almond ornamentation), the Lord Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit (actual light from oil) to give them the light of knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus. *II Cor. 4:6*

- Ministry of the Holy Spirit:
 - ❖ Lighted Lamps revealed beautiful workmanship of the Lampstand. The Holy Spirit reveals the perfecting of Christ.
 - ❖ Lighted Lamps cast light on the Table. The Holy Spirit allows us to see Christ as Bread and feed and receive sustenance from Him.
 - ❖ Lighted Lamps cast light on the Altar. We need the Holy Spirit to worship and supplicate God's Throne.
 - ❖ Lighted Lamps shed light before the Lord. The Holy Spirit allows us to understand that Christ vindicates government and judgment of God. *Rev.4:5; Rev.5*

F. Covering When Moving

1. Blue-divine glory-only the priest saw
 - Only saints appreciate Him as the Holy One.
2. Badger Skins-covered the blue.
 - The ungodly are without any knowledge of the True Light....Solemn!

G. History of Lampstand- 2 mentions Both mentions are Solemn.

1. *I Sam. 3:3*
 - Judgment of the House of Eli (speaks of Israel). Failed to maintain the standard
2. *Daniel 5*
 - Belshazzar- judgment of the Gentiles
3. God is Light
 - Holy as such but must punish sin.
 - Illumes and warms saints
 - Burns and judges sinners

H. Summary- We are children of the Light.

1. Christ is the Light to his people. *II Cor. 4:6*
2. Christ is the Light in his people. *Eph. 1:18*
3. Christ is the Light through his people. *Matt. 5:14-16*

IV. The Altar of Incense

A. Readings: *Exodus 30:1-10,34-38; Hebrews 7:24-26; Romans 8:33,34; Hebrews 10:19-24*

B. Overview-The priest brought incense of unique composition and coals from Brazen Altar. He burned this combination on the Altar, producing a sweet smelling fragrance in the Holy Place.

1. Names of Alter of Incense
 - Golden Altar
 - Altar Before The Lord
 - Altar of Sweet Incense
2. Position- It was opposite the Ark and separated by the Veil. The Priest had to go past the Altar to enter the Holy of Holies

3. Purpose- The High Priest offered incense that was pleasing to God and was continual. This was to remind the priest and those he represented that they stood accepted in the fragrance before God. It also speaks of worship as it was well pleasing to God.
4. Three Links:
 - Brazen Altar- Fire descended upon the sacrifice and produced coals and fire for the incense.
 - Lampstand and the Altar were attended to at the same time of the day.
 - Day of Atonement- only one time in a year, blood was placed on the Altar. Thus, even though the Altar of Incense was tallest, it owed its standing to the atoning blood of the Brazen Altar.

C. Introduction in Scripture by God's Order

1. Altar introduced later after the consecration of the Priest.
2. God manifested Himself to man from the Ark to the Brazen Altar. Then the priesthood was established. Then God outlined man's approach to Him.
3. Altar Given Special Place- Highest priestly function with the Tabernacle because it represents ministry in Heaven itself toward God. Worship is a sweet smelling fragrance in His presence.
 - Type-The Lord Jesus as a risen Savior who ever liveth to make intercession for us and brings our supplications to God. *Heb. 7:25; Heb 2:12; Heb 13:15*
 - Altar=Christ, Incense=Christ, Priest=Christ

D. Dimensions and Composition of Alter of Incense- 1 cubit x 1 cubit x 2 cubits

1. 1 cubit square
 - completeness/fullness of work done on the altar
 - Smaller than Brazen Altar- only for church
 - One Cubit-Christ accepted only speaks once to Father for He hears him always. *John 11:42*
 - One Cubit- unity of will of Christ/Father and our will. The purpose of prayer.
2. 2 cubits high
 - Ark was 1.5 cubits high. The Mercy Seat was above the Ark. Incense ascended from the Altar at level above the Ark between the Cherubims which is the Mercy Seat, the dwelling place of God.
 - Incense is a type of Christ who ascended into Heaven as a real man resurrected in purity and holiness. This added a new and sweet odor to the dwelling place of God.
3. Truth For Us
 - His holy intercession maintains our standing in the light of God's presence.
 - His incense covers every ill thought or action that may drift from us to God.
 - Incense placed directly before the Lord. Nothing can come between us and God. No weakness or failing on my behalf may hinder our ready access to the Throne of Grace.
4. Composition
 - Gold-deity of Christ

- Acacia Wood-perfect, sinless manhood

E. Ornamentation of Altar of Incense

- Horns of the Altar- Blood was placed here on Day of Atonement
- Horn-symbol of power
- Horns- They pointed to all directions around the Tabernacle. All tribes were covered. All believers presented to Christ in full perfectness before God. All sheltered under cloud of incense. All accepted in beloved. *Heb. 7:26*
- Golden Crown Around the Altar- purpose was to hold coals in place while moving. *Numbers 4*. This shows the truth of continual, uninterrupted intercession secured along the rough way. During our wilderness times, a sweet savor is before God on our behalf.
- Rings and Staves- 2 rings. 2 is number of witness. The Holy Spirit is here to testify of Christ. *John 15:26*

F. Incense-specially made only for use on the Altar

1. Spices speak of Christ
 - Stacte- Life yielded unto death
 - Onycha- Devotion to God
 - Galbanum-Affection and Energy
 - Frankincense-Purity
2. Uniqueness- Person of Christ is peerless

G. History

1. Nadab and Abihu- Aaron's sons offered strange fire. They kindled their own fire not using the fire from the Brazen Altar and God took their life. No worship may be offered to God on any other foundation but acceptance through the crucified Christ.
2. King Uzziah

H. Times of Burning Incense

1. Incense ascended at same time as the trimming of the lampstand to produce maximum fragrance when the lamps were trimmed.
2. Truth- Lampstand speaks of unity with Christ. The Lord Jesus entered Heaven as Head of Church on her behalf and as the light shined ever brighter, the fragrance was full and ascended into Heaven on her behalf. The final result will be a chaste virgin presented before God in holiness, redeemed and kept through the power of the Ever Living One who lives to make intercession for us.