

Tetzaveh (You shall Command)
Exodus 27:20 – 30:10

I want to lay a little foundation before we get to the Torah reading for this week. It would be easy to see the **Menorah** as just “**the Light of the world,**” but could there possibly be many more **levels** to its symbolism? We’re going to explore some ideas, but first let’s once more go back to the reason that יהוה (Yahweh) wanted the **Tabernacle** built....

Exodus 25:8 "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may **dwell among them.**

The purpose of the tabernacle was so that יהוה might dwell among the children of Israel. Let’s look at the pattern that we see for יהוה **dwelling** among His people:

1. יהוה walked in Eden with Adam and Eve	Yeshua walked among the people
2. יהוה tabernacled among His people (temporary dwelling)	You are the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 3:16 (temporary dwelling)
3. יהוה dwelt in the Temple (permanent dwelling in Jerusalem)	יהוה will dwell permanently with us in (forever in Jerusalem) Rev. 21:10

Last week we talked about how the **Tabernacle** is a picture of **Yeshua**, and how **Yeshua** is the **head**, but He also has a **body**....and we that **we** are that **body**. If that doesn’t sink in, the **Tabernacle** study will not be as exciting to you. From this perspective, studying the **Tabernacle** is **like studying the Almighty’s plan for us!** And because it appears that He has begun once again to “**remember**” (act on behalf of) His people, it is imperative that we try to understand the symbolism behind the structure, furniture, garments, and the priests of the **Tabernacle**. Look at the chart above. Only the 2nd half of number 3 is left to fulfill! And when we get there, it’s **forever!**

The Bible teaches **two priesthoods**:

- **Levitical**
- **Melchizedek**

What Moses saw up on Mt. Sinai was a picture of the **order of Melchizedek**. It was a picture of that 2nd half of number 3 up above. How do you make an **earthly Tabernacle** when you see a **picture of the heavenly?** Well יהוה gave Moses the wisdom to know how to do the construction, and that is why it was so crucial that He follow it “**exactly according to the pattern He showed him**”.

Hebrews 8:1 Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a **High Priest**, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the **heavens**,² a Minister of the **sanctuary** and of the **true Tabernacle** which **Adonai erected**, and not man.³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore *it is* necessary that this One also have something to offer.⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are

priests who offer the gifts according to the Torah; ⁵ who serve **the copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the Tabernacle. For He said, "See *that* you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Does the phrase "**true Tabernacle**" bother you? In our **Greek** way of thinking because **false** is the **opposite of true**, it seems to imply that the **earthly tabernacle** that Moses constructed was a "**false tabernacle**". But that is **not** what is being taught here. The **Hebrew** word for **true** is "**emet**" (אמת) and in addition to "true", also implies "**lasting, real, or eternal**". That thought is totally supported by this verse in 2 Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For **the things which are seen are temporary**, but **the things which are not seen are eternal**.

So you see that the author of Hebrews was not trying to **belittle** the **earthly Tabernacle**; it is just that in comparison, the **eternal** far outweighs the **earthly**. Now if **Yeshua** has become the **High Priest of the order of Melchizedek**, then who are the other **priests** of this heavenly order?

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by Yah as **High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"**

Revelation 1:6 and has made **us** to be **a kingdom and priests** to serve his Elohim and Father-- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up **a spiritual house, a holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Adonai through Messiah Yeshua.

Now having reviewed a bit and having looked at the **heavenly priesthood**, let's begin this week's study. Once more, the children of Israel are being asked to bring **supplies** for the **Tabernacle**.

Exodus 27:20 "And you shall **command** the children of Israel that they bring you **pure oil of pressed olives for the light**, to cause the lamp to burn continually.

But notice the difference:

Exodus 25:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who **gives it willingly with his heart** you shall take My offering.

Did you catch how in Exodus 25 those who were "**willing with their hearts**" were asked to bring an offering, but now in Exodus 27 our parashah begins with the **command** to bring the **pure oil** for the lighting of the **Menorah**.

The **Menorah** is one of the oldest symbols of Israel. It has been found engraved on rocks, coins, and depicted on ancient mosaics. The **Menorah**, along with other loot being carried from the Second Temple, is depicted on the Arch of Titus in Rome as a symbol of the **defeat** of **Israel**. The Menorah's shape of **a central stem with branches extending from either side** gives the

impression of a **tree**. Even the way the Menorah is described supports that image: **stems, branches, flowers, etc.**

What actually is a **Menorah**? The **Menorah** by itself is **not the light**. The **Menorah** is the **stand that holds the lights**. The **lights** are fed by **oil**. Some translations call **Menorahs candlesticks**, but they didn't even have candles back then. Even the translation "**lampstand**" doesn't give the true picture of the **oil fed Menorah**. Let's look at a couple of verses from the Apostolic Scriptures with the true picture of the **Menorah** in mind:

Matthew 5:14 "You are the **light of the world**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ "Nor do they light a **lamp** and put it under a basket, but on a **Menorah**, and it gives **light** to all *who are* in the **house**.¹⁶ "Let your **light so shine** before men, **that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven**.

- Your **light** is to be **set** in the **Menorah**
- Your **light** is meant to give **light to all who are in the house** (**house** is a picture of the family of יהוה, i.e. the **Tabernacle**)
- When they see **your light shine**, they are seeing your **good works** (idom for **keeping the commandments**)
- Seeing you **keeping the commandments** is what will cause them to **glorify the Father**

Revelation 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden **Menorahs**,¹³ and **in the midst** of the seven **Menorahs** *One* like the **Son of Man**, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band...**20** "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the **seven golden Menorahs**: The seven stars are the angels of the seven congregations, and the **seven Menorahs which you saw are the seven congregations**.

- A **believing congregation** is a **Menorah** (how many people think of a **Menorah** as a just a "**Jewish**" symbol)
- **Yeshua** walks in the **midst** of the **congregations** (**He dwells among us**)

So, what I was hoping that you would see is that the **Menorah** is another **picture of the body of Messiah**. **He is the head, we are the body**. **He is the vine, we are the branches**. **He is the central stem of the Menorah, we are the branches stemming off of it**. We can't shine our **light** without being **connected to Him**. Now let's see what the Bible has to say about **light**.

Genesis 1:3 Then Elohim said, "Let there be **light**"; and there was **light**.⁴ And Elohim saw the **light**, that *it was* good; and Elohim divided the **light** from the darkness.

The Creator separated **light** from the darkness **before** the **creation** of the **sun, moon, and the stars** on the fourth day. Therefore we know that this was some sort of **spiritual light**, which we can support by the other book-end of the Scriptures:

Revelation 22:5 There shall be **no night** there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the יהוה Elohim gives them **light**. And they shall reign forever and ever.

These verses from literally **the first and the last chapters of the Scriptures** give the **eternal...** the **Melchizedek** picture of **light**. But we know from the Biblical **patterns**, that **light** will be worked out in some sort of an **earthly** way until the Almighty's plan has been **completed**.

Yeshua makes a comment about **light** in John 8:

John 8:12 Then **Yeshua** spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world**. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the **light of life**."

Did the people who heard Him say this **know what He meant**? Absolutely! Here are a few verses that would have come to mind for them:

Psalms 119:105 Your **word** *is* a **lamp** to my feet And a **light** to my path.

Proverbs 6:23 For the **commandment** *is* a **lamp**, And the **Torah** a **light**; Reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life,

- These two verses tell us that **Torah is a light and the light is Torah**
- This is why it says in John 1, speaking of **Yeshua** – “In the beginning was the **Word** and the **Word** was with **Yah**, and the **Word** was **Yah**.”

Another verse in Isaiah tells us that we must **speak** according to **Torah**, otherwise there is **no light** in us:

Isaiah 8:20 To the **Torah** and to the **testimony**! If they do not **speak according to this word**, *it is* because **there is no light in them**.

Torah is the standard for **light**:

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; **Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness**; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!²¹ Woe to *those who are wise in their own eyes*, And prudent in their own sight!

John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that the **light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil**.²⁰ "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and **does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed**.²¹ "But **he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen**, that they have been done in God."

- He who does the **truth** (keeps the commandments) brings **light**
- **Light** exposes **darkness**

For now what I want you to remember about **light** is this:

- **Torah is light and light is Torah**
- **Yeshua is the living Torah and Yeshua is light**
- **We are lights when we keep the Torah**

Okay, back to the Torah portion:

Exodus 27:20 "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you **pure oil** of pressed olives **for the light**, to cause the **lamp** to burn continually.

You may be assuming that they are being commanded to bring oil for **all the lights** of the **Menorah**. In a way that is correct, but **technically** the Hebrew says that the oil is for the **"light"**...a **singular** word which could refer to the **central column of the menorah from which all the rest of the branches are lit**. This center branch is known as the **"servant"** because the rest of the branches depend on its **light**. Again, there's that picture of **Yeshua** and the **body of Messiah in the Menorah**:

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches.

The children of Israel were commanded to bring **pure olive oil** from **pressed olives**. Olive oil **only** comes forth when **pressured**. The **purest oil** is from the **first pressing**...it is literally the **first drop**. Today we read it on the bottle of oil like this – cold pressed extra virgin olive oil. You'll find this olive oil to be the **best tasting and the most expensive**. It is also the **oil** which would burn cleanly with very little smoke. You can see that **one olive** cannot provide **light** for very long. The **whole tree (all of Israel)** is necessary to keep the **Tabernacle** lit with **light**. And one of the symbols of **Israel** is quite clearly the **olive tree!**

Jeremiah 11:16 יְהוָה called your name, **Green Olive Tree**, Lovely *and* of Good Fruit. With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, And **its branches are broken**.

Sound a little familiar? How about connecting this **Jeremiah** verse with **Romans**:

Romans 11:17 And **if some of the branches were broken off**, and you, being a wild **olive tree**, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the **olive tree**,

Again I'd like to take a little side-trip to **Isaiah** to see how this all fits together. The people of **Israel** were meant from the beginning to be **a light to the nations**. In the context of speaking to Israel:

Isaiah 42:6 "I, יְהוָה, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As **a light to the Nations**,

As a **body of people**, Israel fell short of this calling. So what did יְהוָה do? He prepared **another body**...**the body of Messiah to be this "light to the nations"**. This is exactly what Yeshua was referencing in John 8:12:

John 8:12 Then Yeshua spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world**....

So....**when we connect ourselves to this vine**...when we are **lit by this middle Branch** of the **Menorah**, then we too become **lights to the world!**

Okay...now stay with me and see if we can figure this part out together. There is a very interesting verse in Zechariah 4:

Zechariah 4:14 So he said, "These *are* the **two anointed ones**, who stand beside Adonai of the whole earth."

Here is a more **literal** translation of the Hebrew:

Zechariah 4:14 And he saith, 'These *are* the **two sons of the fresh oil**, who are standing by Adonai of the whole earth.'

Now think about how the children of Israel are supposed to be **supplying the oil** for the **Menorah**. Sounds like these "**two sons of the fresh oil**" in the verse above would be perfect **suppliers**. Let's back up in **Zechariah** to find the context of this verse.

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me **Yehoshua** the **High Priest** standing before the Angel of יהוה, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.

This **Yehoshua** is the **High Priest** from the book of **Ezra** who came out of **Babylon** with **Zerubabel** to help rebuild the temple. In **Ezra**, his name is **Yeshua**:

Ezra 5:2 So **Zerubbabel** the son of **Shealtiel** and **Yeshua** the son of **Jozadak** rose up and **began to build the house of Elohim** which *is* in **Jerusalem**; and the prophets of Elohim *were* with them, helping them.

Let's continue in Zechariah:

Zechariah 3:3 Now **Yehoshua** was **clothed with filthy garments**, and was standing before the Angel.⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "**Take away the filthy garments from him.**" And to him He said, "See, **I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.**"⁵ And I said, "**Let them put a clean turban on his head.**" So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of יהוה stood by.

If **Yehoshua** is a shadow of **Yeshua**, then we see here the **transition between His having taken on our sins upon Himself and being clothed with the robes and the turban of the High Priest**. Indeed the next verse points to **Yehoshua** being this **shadow**:

Zechariah 3:8 'Hear, O **Yehoshua**, the **High Priest**, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth **My Servant the BRANCH**.

Skipping to chapter 4, we see the vision given to **Zechariah**:

Zechariah 4:2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there *is* a **Menorah** of solid gold with a **bowl on top** of it, and on the *stand* seven lamps with **seven pipes to the seven lamps**.³ "**Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.**"

Wow! Here is a picture of a **seven branched Menorah with an olive tree on either side of it!** **The oil from these two trees** is running into the bowl which then passes through the hollow pipes and **feeds the seven lamps!** With what we have already learned about **olive trees**, who do you think these **two olive trees** might be?!!

Zechariah 4:5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my Adonai."⁶ So he answered and said to me: "**This is the word of יהוה to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says יהוה of hosts.**

- We have suddenly switched our attention to **Zerubbabel**
 - **Zerubbabel was leader of the first group of returning exiles from Babylon**
 - His **name** means “**sown in Babylon**” and that is a description of all who are **returning to their Hebrew roots** and finding their new identity to be a part of the children of Israel.
 - His father’s name is Shealtiel and means “**I have asked El**”
- “**Not by might nor by power**” – the context is **the olive trees**. Perhaps He is indicating that **with these olive trees, no pressing or crushing is necessary**. At this point the people will be **so refined that the pure olive oil will come forth willingly through the Spirit!**

Next we see **Zerubbabel** ask a **question** of the angel and this will take us back to where we started in Zechariah:

Zechariah 4:11 Then I answered and said to him, "**What are these two olive trees -- at the right of the lampstand and at its left?**"¹² And I further answered and said to him, "**What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?**"¹³ Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these *are*?" And I said, "No, my Adonai."¹⁴ So he said, "**These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside Adonai of the whole earth.**"

Revelation 11:4 will give us the **identity** of these **two olive trees**:

Revelation 11:3 "And I will give *power* to **my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."⁴ **These are the two olive trees and the two menorahs standing before Adonai of the earth.**

The **oil** that these two witnesses provide is the powerful workings of the Holy Spirit. Whether these are **individuals** or symbolic of **the Two Houses of Israel**, I don’t know. But there is a unity here...a restoration. **Together these two olive trees, or branches, join with the 7 branch Menorah to give the beautiful picture of the 9 branch Menorah of Hanukah (the Festival of Light)!** The oil represents the **Spirit** of יהוה which will **enlighten and empower** mightily in the **end of days**. In fact the oil for the Menorah was also the **anointing oil** for the Priests, called in Exodus 29:7 “shemen Hamashiach” or literally “**the Messianic oil**”.

All this again a picture of what was from the **beginning**:

Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of Elohim** was **hovering** over the face of the waters.

It was the **Spirit of Elohim** that was **hovering** over the face of the **dark** waters and look what happened next:

Genesis 1:3 Then Elohim said, "**Let there be light**"; and there was **light**.

Amazing! And then you can even see the parallel in our own lives when **the Spirit hovers over our darkness and brings light into our lives**:

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is Elohim who commanded **light to shine out of darkness**, who has **shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of Elohim in the face of Messiah Yeshua**.

Our Father we thank you so much for bringing **light into our lives through Messiah Yeshua!**

Shabbat Shalom!

Ardelle