

The Golden Candlestick & the 66 Books of the Bible

Exodus 25:31-40; 37:17-24

The Golden Candlestick was the only source of natural light in the Tabernacle (and later the Temple). It was made from one piece of pure beaten gold;¹ and since gold in the Bible represents Divinity, combining these two reveals that one day God would be beaten.

But since God is a Spirit (Jn. 4:24), then the only way he can be “beaten” is for him to become a man; and this is exactly what he did through the personage of Jesus Christ; God come in the flesh: *The Light* of the Word (Jn. 1:1-14, etc.).²

But not only does the Golden Candlestick represent the *Living* Word, it also represents the *written* Word. But how?



Ps. 119:105 Thy **word** is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

As shown above, the Golden Candlestick has a central shaft with three branches protruding from each side. On each branch there were 3 sets of 3 ornaments, with each set containing a bowl, a knop, and a flower: 9 total on each branch (3 sets of 3). On the central shaft there were 4 sets of these same 3 ornaments for a total of 12.

So to either side of the central shaft there were 27 ornaments with 12 ornaments on the central shaft itself. Choosing the right side, there are 27 ornaments representing the 27 books of the Bible as found in the New Testament. That leaves the 27 ornaments on the left side and the 12 ornaments on the central shaft, which added together totals 39, which is the number of books found in the Old Testament. So adding all of the ornaments together represents the total number of books that would eventually become part of the canon of Scripture; and so this is how the Golden Candlestick represents the 66 books of the Bible. This of course doesn't tell us which 66 books, but it does teach that there will be no more than 66.

But there's more. The Golden Candlestick further represents the *written* Word of God as follows. To begin, the plans and construction of the Golden Candlestick were inspired by God but built by men who'd been empowered by the Holy Spirit;³ likewise, the written Word was

¹ Job 23:10; 1 Pet. 1:7; Rev. 3:18, 21:21 etc.

² Jesus beaten: cp. Is. 53 with Mt. 27:26-30; Mk. 15:15-19; Jn. 19:1-3, etc.

³ Ex. 31:1-11; 35:34-35 e.g.

(over)

also inspired by God and “constructed” by men who were also led by this same Spirit.⁴ Thus the pattern is the same and brings to remembrance the necessity of God’s many admonitions to build everything according to his design with warnings not to add or subtract from his Word.⁵

Next, the Golden Candlestick was given to the Jews, and since the Golden Candlestick also represents the written Word, then this is teaching that *ALL* Scriptures would eventually come from the Jews, and no one else (Rom. 3:1-2); hence, any “holy book” claiming Divine inspiration can immediately be rejected if it wasn’t written by a Jew. (This also teaches that Luke wasn’t a Gentile, as some postulate that he was.)

And finally, the Golden Candlestick was given to the Jews for the benefit of the whole congregation, but it was solely maintained by the priests. And since the Golden Candlestick also represents the written Word of God, then this is teaching that only the priests (scribes) were allowed to be involved in its preservation and copying.

But with the cross, the Old Testament Levitical priesthood was replaced by the priesthood of believers;⁶ and so following the pattern, only those who’ve become priests through the new birth are to be involved in the preservation and copying of Scripture. This means that all manuscripts written by non-Levitical Jews during Old Testament times and all manuscripts written by unsaved men during New Testament times *MUST* be rejected (and there are many). Thus we discover that the preservation and copying of God’s written Word is and has always been the sole responsibility of God’s chosen people, and none else: none.

So in order to understand which “version” of the Bible is the right one, we must investigate its origins and those involved in its construct. Only God’s people have the ability to understand Scripture – not the unsaved due to the fact that they’ve had their understanding “darkened.”⁷ Selah.

⁴ 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21; etc.

⁵ Cp. Ex. 25:9, 40 and Dt. 4:2; 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19

⁶ E.g. 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rev. 1:6

⁷ 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 5:18