

Exodus 25:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it.

Analysis

Seven lamps—the complete number—provide light. The Hebrew נֵר (ner, lamp) held oil and wick, requiring daily tending (Leviticus 24:2-4). These lamps 'give light over against it' (illuminate the space before the lampstand), enabling priestly service. The Holy Spirit (oil) burning in consecrated vessels (lamps) produces light that reveals God's glory and enables worship. Without the Spirit's light, ministry is impossible.

Historical Context

The lamps burned consecrated olive oil 'beaten for the light' (Exodus 27:20), the purest quality. Priests trimmed wicks and replenished oil each morning, maintaining perpetual illumination in the Holy Place. The lampstand faced the table and altar, illuminating all priestly service.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the Holy Spirit provide 'oil' that enables your light to shine?
2. What priestly service in your life requires the Spirit's illumination to perform?

Interlinear Text

וַעֲשֵׂה יְהוָה	אֶת	נֵי רֶתֶת יְהוָה	שִׁבְעָה	הַ	וְהִעֲלָה	אֶת
And thou shalt make	H853	lamps	the seven		thereof and they shall light	H853
H6213		H5216	H7651		H5927	
נֵי רֶתֶת יְהוָה	וְהֵא יר	עַל	עַבְרָה	פְּנֵיהֶ:		
lamps	thereof that they may give light	H5921	over against	it		
H5216	H215		H5676	H6440		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 8:2 (Light): Speak unto Aaron, and say unto him, When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light over against the candlestick.

Revelation 1:12 (Parallel theme): And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Exodus 27:21 (Parallel theme): In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

Zechariah 4:2 (Parallel theme): And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

2 Chronicles 13:11 (Parallel theme): And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps

thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org