

# Exodus 37:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And six branches going out of the sides thereof; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side thereof, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side thereof:

## Analysis

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Six branches extending from the menorah's sides (שִׁשָּׁה קָנִים יֹצְאִים מִצִּדְדֶּיהָ, shishah kanim yots'im mi-tziddeha), three per side, with the central shaft making seven total—the number of completion and perfection. The central shaft represents God/Christ as the primary light source, with six branches representing God's people reflecting His light. This design teaches that believers are not independent light sources but reflectors of the true Light (Matthew 5:14-16)—we shine only as we remain connected to Christ, the vine (John 15:5).

## Historical Context

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The six branches arched out from the central shaft at regular intervals, likely forming a semi-circular pattern. Each branch held a lamp cup at its end, creating seven lamps total. This seven-fold light symbolized perfect illumination, God's complete witness in the Holy Place.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do the six branches extending from one central shaft illustrate believers deriving light from Christ, not generating their own?
2. What does the number seven (central shaft plus six branches) teach about completeness and perfection in God's witness?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשֵׁשׁ הַ	קַנֵּי י	יוֹצְאֵי ים	מִצְדֵּי הַ	וְשְׁלֹשָׁה	קַנֵּי י
And six	branches	going out	of the sides	thereof and three	branches
H8337	H7070	H3318	H6654	H7969	H7070
מִנֵּךְ הַ	מִצְדֵּי הַ	הֶאֱחָדָה	וְשְׁלֹשָׁה	קַנֵּי י	
of the candlestick	of the sides	out of the one	thereof and three	branches	
H4501	H6654	H259	H7969	H7070	
מִנֵּךְ הַ	מִצְדֵּי הַ	הַשְּׂנִי:			
of the candlestick	of the sides	out of the other			
H4501	H6654	H8145			