

Numbers 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Analysis

The Lord's direct address to Moses for Aaron regarding the lampstand lighting establishes that worship proceeds according to divine instruction, not human preference. The seven lamps represent complete illumination—God's truth lighting the darkness. Aaron's role in maintaining the light teaches that spiritual leaders bear responsibility for keeping the light of truth burning. The Reformed principle that ministers are light-bearers, not light-sources, is foundational—they maintain what God has lit, not create light themselves.

Historical Context

The golden lampstand stood in the holy place opposite the table of showbread, providing light for the priests' service. Its seven lamps required daily maintenance with pure olive oil. The lampstand's position meant it illuminated the bread and the altar of incense, suggesting that God's word lights our way to prayer and provision.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the image of maintained light challenge both pastoral authority and responsibility?
2. What does the daily need for oil and trimming teach about ongoing spiritual maintenance?
3. In what ways does Christ as the Light of the World fulfill what the lampstand symbolized?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּדְבֹּר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	לֵאמֹר:
spake	And the LORD	^{H413}	unto Moses	saying
^{H1696}	^{H3068}		^{H4872}	^{H559}

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