

The Mystery of the Seven Gold Menorahs

“Here is the secret meaning (mystery, KJV) of the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and of the seven gold menorahs: the seven stars are the angels of the seven Messianic communities, and the seven menorahs are the seven Messianic communities.” (Rev. 1:20)

Everyone knows that the principal symbol of Judaism is the six-pointed Star of David. But did you know that the *Magen David* only became a Jewish symbol in the Middle Ages? Despite its prominence on the flag of Israel and *kiddush* cups, the *Magen David* is a rather late representative of Judaism and the Jewish People. For most of our history, and certainly in antiquity, the **preeminent symbol of the Jewish religion was the Menorah**, the seven-branched candlestick which was first revealed in the Tabernacle of Moses, and later in the Temple of King Solomon in Jerusalem.¹



A reconstruction of the Menorah of the Temple



The Arch of Titus



The Menorah in Rome’s Arch of Titus

That menorah is mentioned for the first time in today's *parasha*, when *Elohim* tells *Moshe* to “*You are to make a menorah of pure gold...It is to have six branches extending from its sides, three branches of the menorah on one side of it and three on the other.*” (Ex. 25:31-32) In reading the description of the Menorah, the details are so complex that it is easy to despair of ever visualizing it correctly. Fortunately, in our day, we have Wikipedia and Google coming to the rescue. Like the Menorah of old, we also can illumine the world. “*Likewise, when people light a lamp, they don't cover it with a bowl, but put it on a menorah, so that it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they may see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.*” (Matt. 5:15-16)



The Temple Menorah Displayed in Jerusalem

On June 27, 2009 I preached a on the topic of *Adonai*'s wisdom. We shared that when one builds a house, the first thing that must be laid its foundation. Since “*Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars*” (Prov. 9:1), what is the foundation of *Adonai*'s Wisdom? Fortunately, Scripture gives us the answer. The foundation of the house of wisdom is: “*The fear (respect) of Adonai is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*” (Proverbs 9:10). Now, erected upon a solid foundation and supporting the super-structure of the *house of wisdom* we have seven mighty pillars, or columns. We can easily see a menorah-like structure supporting the house of wisdom—coincidence, huh?

¹ *Shabbat Parashat Terumah, 4 Adar 5762 - The Menorah: Let Your Light Shine, Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, American Jewish University. See <http://judaism.ajula.edu/Content/ContentUnit.asp?CID=914&u=1925&t=0>*

Biblical Symbolism

Evidently, there is a Biblical Mystery associated with Biblical symbolism, and in particular, with the *menorah*. Much can be discerned from Scriptural references to such objects. In particular:

1. The visible reveals the invisible

“For ever since the creation of the universe his invisible qualities - both his eternal power and his divine nature - have been clearly seen, because they can be understood from what he has made” (Ro. 1:20)

“For the Torah has in it a shadow of the good things to come, but not the actual manifestation of the originals...” (Hebrews 10:1)

“So don't let anyone pass judgment on you in connection with eating and drinking, or in regard to a Jewish festival or Rosh-Chodesh or Shabbat. These are a shadow of things that are coming, but the body is of the Messiah” (Col. 2:16-17)

“But what they are serving is only a copy and shadow of the heavenly original; for when Moshe was about to erect the Tent, God warned him, ‘See to it that you make everything according to the pattern you were shown on the mountain’” (Hebrew 8:5, Ex. 25:40)

2. These symbols reinforce principles of truth and point to Messiah Yeshua

In fact, of all the symbols of Judaism and Christianity, the *menorah* stands alone as the one and only truly Biblical symbol of government, revelation, a nation, and Messiah *Yeshua*. As noted earlier in Scripture, Moshe did not design the *menorah* for the *mishkan*, but instead *Adonai* Himself revealed to him on Mt. Sinai (see Exodus 25:31-40). This was part of *Adonai*'s heavenly pattern—a representation of how things are arranged around *Elohim*'s throne. The pattern revealed in the *menorah* will be evident in all of *Adonai*'s affairs with His people from Exodus 25 all the way to Revelation (forever). Not surprising, this will also be the pattern for business used by Messiah Himself. It represents the Messiah, His work, His body and His kingdom. More than a fish, or a scroll, or even an execution tree, the *menorah* makes evident the eternal revelation of Messiah, *yesterday, today and forever* (Heb. 13:8).

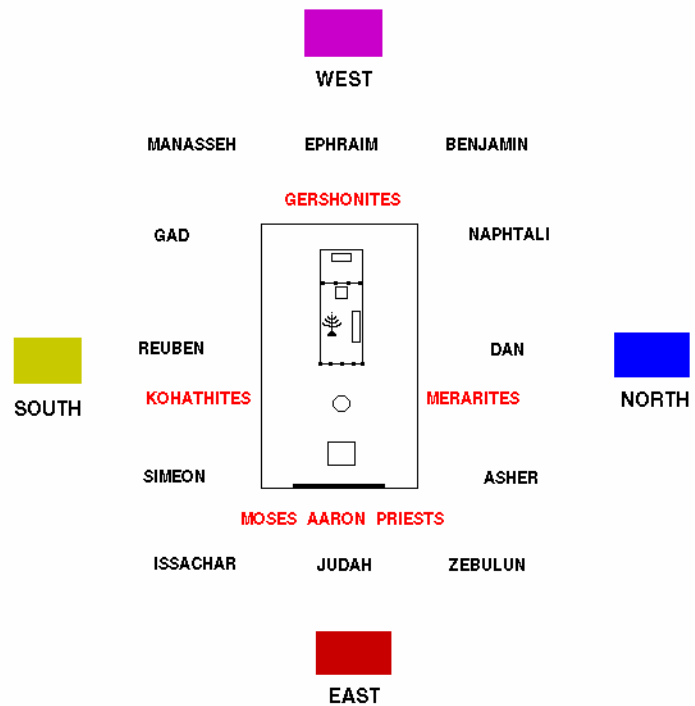
3. Elements of the pattern

- The light of the world / Messiah / His Body—(Matt. 5:14, John 8:12, Isa. 62:1)
- One central shaft—*“I am the vine and you are the branches”* (John 15:5, Jer. 23:5). Indeed the *menorah* also reveals the principle of *echad*—one anointed leader for His people.
- Seven Lamps—(Josh. 6:4, Zech. 4:10, Acts 6:1-4, Rev. 1:4, 3:1, 4:5, 5:6)
- Twelve Foundations / twelve Tribes of Israel / Twelve Apostles / Twelve Gates—(Gen, Eph. 2:20, Rev. 21:14)
- Seventy-two knops, flowers, and bowls—(Ex. 24, Nu. 10, Isa. 25, Eze. 8, Dan. 9, Zech. 7, Luke 10). On each of the six branches three bowls and a knop (bulb) and a flower, e.g., $9 \times 6 = 54$ (Exodus 25:33); on the central shaft four bowls each with a knop and a flower = 12 (Exodus 25:34); under each of the six branches one knop = 6 (Exodus 25:35), thus $54 + 12 + 6 = 72$

A Pattern for His (Messianic) People

When Israel encamped in the desert, *Adonai* commanded Moshe to set up a camp pattern. This was both when they rested, and when they were to move. He set Judah to the east—with a banner with a Lion of gold on a scarlet background. He set Ephraim to the west—with a banner with an Ox of black on a gold background. He set Reuben to the south—with a banner of a Man on a gold background. And he set Dan on the north—with a banner of an Eagle of gold on a blue background.

Any depiction of the encampment of the Children of Israel in the Book of Numbers, shows some remarkable insights when viewed from above (from *Adonai's* viewpoint, so to speak). We see the twelve foundations, each with their own ensign. We see the seventy plus two round about the *mishkan*. We see the content of the *mishkan*, the table of showbread, the altar of incense, the *menorah*, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place in the center of the camp. We see the anointed leaders *Moshe* and *Aharon* standing between the seventy + two and the *mishkan*. In short, we see the menorah pattern!



When *Yeshua* appeared unto John in Revelation 1, His Abba divinely and in His sovereignty chose the staging for His Son to once again speak unto His body—He chose seven *menorot*. This was not random or insignificant, but in *Yeshua's* own words, a mystery. But a mystery that He revealed to them and to us who are in Messianic communities. *Yeshua* is completely and totally comfortable among *menorot*. We can see Him clearly, we can understand Him, we can have intimacy with Him, we can worship Him and in Him we have all we need.

G-d has a little scroll (a little book) that He is interested in. It is a special scroll (a little book), and therefore it ought to be special to His people. If this book really does what it says (it exposes, expounds and informs us on the total impact of Messiah on the entire world), we ought to be into it. We must place great value on the Book of the Revelation of Messiah *Yeshua* and its impact on our lives. This is the book that ultimately details whom *Yeshua* really is. This is the book that was prophesied about—the edible book of Ezekiel 2:8-3:14 and of Isaiah 29:9-13. The sealed book of Daniel 12:4. This is the book that was *sweetness* in John's mouth, and become *bitter* in his belly (Rev. 10:9-10). And since we are in the time of the end it is time to open it up...it is time to re-read and understand and glean from the little book. In fact, it is time to eat it up and become intimately familiar with its content. Allow it to be sweetness in your mouth, even if it becomes bitter in your understanding. Even so, come *Adonai Yeshua*.

“⁴Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁵And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen... ¹²I turned around to see who was speaking to me; and when I had turned, I saw seven gold menorahs; ¹³and among the menorahs was someone like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around his chest. ¹⁴His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, his eyes like a fiery flame, ¹⁵his feet like burnished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp double-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand upon me and said, “Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last, ¹⁸the Living One. I was dead, but look!—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Sh'ol. ¹⁹So write down what you see, both what is now, and what will happen afterwards.

♪ *Asher HaYa, V'Hoveh, V'Yavo, Ha Kadosh, Baruch Hu* ♪...Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting ♪