The Secret Meaning of the Gold Menorah

“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 assumes 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. Rabbi Slobodkin wrote on the Rabbi’s Forum: “I personally believe the Magen David comes from the rimon, the pomegranate.” Then he included a picture he took in September 2012 in Jericho.

For most of our history, and certainly in antiquity, the preeminent symbol of the Jewish religion was the Menorah, the seven-branched candlestick that was first revealed to Moses in Parashat Terumah, and first seen in the Tabernacle of Moses, and later in the Temple of King Solomon in Jerusalem.

That menorah is mentioned for the first time in Jewish History today’s Parashah, 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 in ever visualizing it correctly. Fortunately, in our day, we have 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)

On June 27, 2009 I preached on Adonai’s wisdom. We shared then that when one builds a house, the first thing that must be laid is 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. Can you see a menorah-like structure supporting the house of *Adonai*’s wisdom? Coincidence, huh?

**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 / Tribes of Israel / Apostles / 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 × 6=54 (Ex. 25:33); on the central shaft four bowls each with a knop and a flower =12 (Ex. 25:34); under each of the six branches one knop = 6 (Ex. 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. This is 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.

“...Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting...”

See: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft77lbkeBVg