

## The Lord's Lampstand

You are the light of the world; a city situated on a hill cannot be hidden; no one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house; Let your light so shine, says the Lord, so that men may see your good works and glorify the heavenly Father; (Matt. 5:14-16). The Light given us to shine must be put on the lampstand to shine near and far the love and faithfulness of our Lord. It must not bring glory to self; but it must point to the source of the shine. When we act with self-motives we are hiding the light under a basket and our heavenly Father is not being glorified through our actions. The fact of the matter is in whatever we say and do there must be reflection of the LIGHT of our Lord YAHSHUA through His HOLY SPIRIT.

In his journey through the desert Moses experienced, more than anyone else, the Shekinah glory of YAHWEH. The time when he spent forty days and forty nights with the Lord in a complete fast, as he received once again the tables of the Ten Commandments, the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with Moses there proclaiming His name. He said, The Lord! The Lord! A God merciful and gracious slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth, keeping mercy and loving-kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation; and Moses made haste to bow his head toward the earth and worshiped (Exodus 34). Even though he did not know that the skin of his face shone and sent forth beams by reason of him speaking with the Lord, until he was told, his life was a lampstand for His God, Whom he served. He walked in the presence of the Lord as he led the nation of Israel to the Promise Land shining the glory of His Lord to the world of the Israelites. Moses was a true lampstand for the Lord; sending forth beams of YAHWEH'S love, faithfulness, mercy. It was clear to see in his everyday life. We often read, "Moses did as the Lord commanded him to do". But that one time when he misrepresented the Lord's command hitting the rock more than one time, he paid dearly with his life, and he was denied the entrance to the Promised Land, after forty years wandering through the desert.

YAHSHUA said, Let your light so shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify the Father Who is in heaven. As a Lampstand for CHRIST we do have the responsibility to reflect His light to our small world- the shine from the true Light of the world- YAHSHUA. Only when walking with Him can we receive the shine from His Light. Like the moon which does not have its own light, but receives its light from the sun, so are we. The HOLY SPIRIT is the light of all spiritual understanding; He shines His light to every step we take, blessing us with His wisdom and discernment. When we receive His light we can be His Lampstand, carrying the shine of its rays to all who knows and sees us. That shine is interpreted in the "good works" we do for the Lord. As the temporary tabernacle was the recipient of the Shekinah glory, so our body- the temple of the HOLY SPIRIT is the recipient of His glory as we take our position of a Lampstand to shine the glory of the Lord. The life of the believer must be orderly in behavior, word, and thinking just as orderly was the Lord's command given Moses to position every tabernacle vessel in its proper place. Since our life is ordered by the Lord, the desire of our heart should be to follow His instructions; to walk the way He ordained for us, to be where He

wants us to be and so to be His Lampstand everywhere we must be. As His Temple and His Lampstand we are His instrument to perform His will in every way of life; in every place we put our feet; always waiting for Him to lead us, as He did for the nation of Israel in her journey to the Promised Land. He used a cloud for the day and a pillar of fire for the night. "If the cloud was not taken up, they did not set out until the day it was taken up". That was the sign of YAHWEH'S presence guiding and protecting Israel. We do have His presence in the person of His HOLY SPIRIT today as our guide and protector. But for us to be His light bearer we must walk with Him to receive the brightness of the shine of His light in obedience and submission, for others to recognize that shine comes from Him and give glory to YAHWEH.

We do have a desert to walk through before reaching the Promised Land. But around us there is a world of darkness and confusion in great need of light. However, we will not be able to shine YAHWEH'S light in complaining; contentment is the key to the joy of Lord where the strength lies in the light of our Lord. The disciples, after YAHSHUA returned to heaven, carried the shine of His presence in a way that the world marveled at. When they saw the boldness and unfettered eloquence of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained in the schools, they marveled; and they **recognized** that they had been with YAHSHUA (Acts 4:13). Peter, once a coward denying His Lord, stood up filled and controlled by the HOLY SPIRIT as a lampstand, shining the truth of which he was a witness. When told to stop teaching about the name of YAHSHUA, they replied, Whether it is right in the sight of YAHWEH to listen to you and obey you rather than YAHWEH, you must decide. But we cannot help telling what we have seen and heard. When they further threatened them, they let them go, not seeing how they could not secure a conviction against them because of the people; for everybody was praising and glorifying YAHWEH for what had occurred (19-20). Peter and John were perfect Lampstands shining the Light that brought glory not to themselves, but to the heavenly Father, the author of all good things. They shone the light of truth with boldness, because they had been with YAHSHUA, their Lord.

In the very early days of the Christian Church when the teachings of YAHSHUA were fresh in the mind, the disciples took their stand as a Lampstand and bravely reflected YAHSHUA'S light. One of them was Stephen, who was full of grace and power from the Lord; he reflected YAHSHUA'S love while dying a martyr's death in the hand of his prosecutors; he never lost his position as a Lampstand even while being stoned; so he prayed, "And falling on his knees, he cried out loudly, Lord, fix not this sin upon them! And when he had said this, he fell asleep (Acts 7:59-60). That was a shine that will never grow dim in the minds of people, for it reflects the very own words of the Lord YAHSHUA when they were crucifying Him; its rays grows brighter and brighter every time someone reads Stephens' testimony. The responsibility of a lampstand is not to hide the light, but to carry it everywhere where there is darkness. The closer we walk with YAHSHUA, the brighter His shine we will reflect to the world!

"No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand and gives light for all in the house; so let your light so shine, so that men might see your good works and glorify the heavenly Father".

**THINK ABOUT IT!**