

Beha'alotekha
"When you set up"

Torah Reading: Numbers 8:1 - 12:16
Haftarah Reading: Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7

Study Notes

Menorah (8:1)

- Was shaped like a tree, with blossoms. Perhaps this is to remind us of the Tree of Life.
- Its light surely pictured the light of God.
- Seven lamps produced the light. Seven is almost universally accepted as the number of perfection.
- The gold, being the purest of all natural metals, stands for purity.
- Putting it all together we can suggest that the golden Menorah "...might be said to symbolize God's perfect presence and life illuminating His sanctuary and through Moses, His people..."
- Moreover, Israel was to have this menorah shine continually, "...that they may perpetuate the light which I conferred on you as an example to the nations of the world."

Movements of the Camp

- Cloud and Fire - (9:18) - The people had to trust God by following the cloud. This contains a very practical lesson for us in our own lives.
- On a practical level the cloud provided shade and the fire would provide light and heat during the cold desert nights.

Rebellion (11:4-6)

- Not just complaining about meat but also saying they were better off in Egypt.
- The influence of rebellion was also started by foreigners (11:4). Contrast this with 1 Cor. 5:6,11.
- This rebellion drove Moshe to grow and desire to have the leadership shared with others.

Why was Moshe such a Great Leader

- He took his problems to God.
- He was honest with God.
- He was willing to sacrifice for the good of the people.
- He did not act defensively.
- He heard from God in an intimate way.
- Summary: Moshe was more humble than anyone else. (12:3)