

- External: How to get into God's Presence. Internal: What it's like in God's Presence
- 2 rooms: The Holy Place (3 items); The Most Holy Place (1 item)
- Lampstand: 35kg hammered gold. Possibly 5ft high, 3ft wide. Always lit.

1. The Lampstand: A Tree of Life and Light

- Significance is seen in what the lampstand is and what it does:
 - a) A Tree of Life**
 - Styled as a highly fruitful tree. An echo of Eden (Gen 2:9)
 - Adam & Eve expelled, The way to the Tree of Life closed. (Gen 3:22-24)
 - Here God saying, "There is a way back to the Tree of Life—via sacrifice"
 - Almond tree—a picture of hope and new life
 - b) A Tree of Light**
 - Continuously lit. Burning a smokeless olive oil (Ex 27:20-21)
 - A sign of welcome. God is present. Light = understanding, knowledge, meaning
 - In God's presence there is meaning, and the darkness of life is dispelled

2. Christ: The Bringer of Life and Light

- Everything in the Tabernacle points to Christ
 - a) Christ is the Light of the World**
 - *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* (John 8:12, see also John 1:1-6; 3:19-21.)
 - We are lost in the darkness, and we love the darkness (John 3:19).
 - Christ comes to guide us back to God's presence, giving meaning and hope.
 - Christ is salvation and hope. To reject him means ultimate darkness (Matt 25:30)
 - To accept him means living with him forever in the City of Tree of Life where he is the Light (Rev 22:3, 21:23)
 - b) Christ is the bringer of life**
 - *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* (John 10:10)
 - His life was full and fruitful. He brings life the way it was meant to be.
 - He entered our darkness on a tree of death so that we could have life and light.
 - You need to go to him so that you have life and light that never fails

3. Christians: Called to be Light and Life

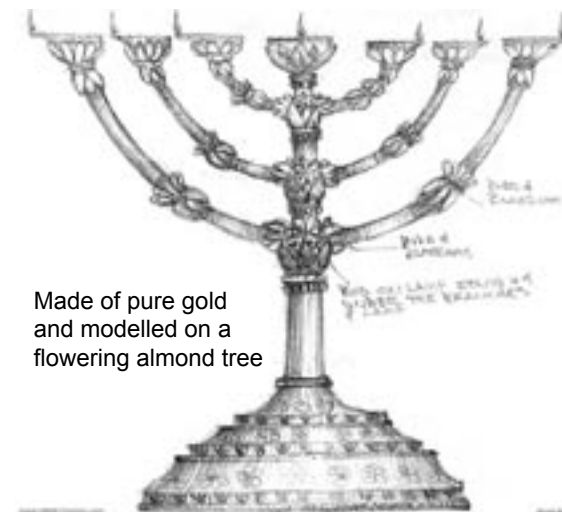
- Some items in Tabernacle are pictures of us too
 - a) Christians as light**
 - Christ calls us to be *"the light of the world"* (Matt 5:14)
 - Are walking in the light or in dark ways? Are you getting fuel from God's word?
 - b) Christians as life**
 - Christ calls us to *"bear much fruit"* (John 15:8) since he gives us fruitful life
 - Are you bearing fruit? The fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)?

Notices

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| Sunday | Evening meeting at Milford | 8pm |
| Tuesday | Bible Study - Prayer time @ Mark & Judith's | 8pm |
| Wed | Morning Study - Proverbs Art of Living Study 5 @ Judith Tait's | 10.30am |

Castlewellan Holiday Conference

Forms available for this summer holiday conference - must be in by Saturday 15th February



The Golden Lampstand

