

The Lampstand

By Linda Brown

He also made the lampstand of pure gold; of hammered work he made the lampstand. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and its flowers were of the same piece...

all of it was one hammered piece of pure gold. (Exodus 3:17-24 NIV)

This passage goes on to describe in detail exactly what the lampstand in the Tabernacle looked like. It had a base, a center shaft and six branches--three on each side. Each of these branches (seven in all) had three bowls for the oil, and the bowls were shaped like almond blossoms. Each branch also had an ornamental knob and a flower. The shaft had four additional bowls like almond blossoms, each with an ornamental knob and flower. There were at least twenty-two decorative "appendages" on this lampstand. And it was ***one hammered piece of pure gold***.

What do you suppose was the significance of mentioning that it was fashioned out of one piece of pure gold? Imagine how it would have looked as one piece. Not only would it have been spectacularly beautiful, it would have been solid and whole. Then picture what it might have looked like, if it had been fashioned in pieces and then put together. Not quite as lovely. Moreover, it would have required some sort of welding and seams, which--had it not been done properly--could have been points of vulnerability in its structure.

The purpose of the lampstand was to give light to the priests as they communed with God and performed the duties of the priesthood in the Holy Place. It was a shadow, or type, of Christ, who brought light to the world. When Christ dwells in us, we are the light of the world.

Lord, fashion us, the body of Christ, into the lampstand you intended us to be--solid, whole, strong, beautiful, living light so others can see God. One hammered piece of pure gold.