

Why 66 Books in the Bible? – Joshua Stucki

Psalm 119:105 – “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

In Exodus 25:31-40 and 37:17-24, the Israelites were given the instructions on how to build the candlestick for the Tabernacle’s Holy Place:

The candlestick was the only light source in the Holy Place. Justly so, as the Word of God is our only guide for faith!

The candlestick, like all furniture in the tabernacle (and later, temple), had very specific instructions on its construction:

On the left side of the central branch there were 27 ornaments, with 12 ornaments on the central shaft. The four left shafts combined equal 39 ornaments – they represent the Old Testament. The three right shafts combined equal 27 ornaments, representing the New Testament – 66 books in all!

The above also shows there are no more books and no new revelation after the Bible – it is complete! (1 Corinthians 13:8ff). Any additions afterwards would destroy this type and shadow in and of the Bible. We are warned anyway not to add or subtract anything from Scripture (Revelation 22:18+19), just as the candlestick was not to have an ornament added or subtracted (Exodus 25:40).

Other “shadows” and “types” in the candlestick:

The candlestick was built by men but by instructions inspired by the Holy Spirit (Exodus 31:1-11, 35:34-35). Likewise, the Word of God was written by men but inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).

The candlestick was made to the pattern given on the mountain; no additions or subtractions (Exodus 25:40). Similarly, we are not to add or subtract from God’s Word (Revelation 22:18+19).

The candlestick was given to the Jews, just as the Word of God was originally given to the Jews (Romans 3:1-2). Now the Word of God is available to all, starting with the Jews (Acts 2:1ff).

The Levitical priesthood was charged with temple worship (Leviticus; Deuteronomy 18:1ff). We are the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9-10), charged with worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24), no longer in a temple or tabernacle built by human hands.

The candlestick was present with the altar of incense and the table of showbread (Leviticus 24). The Word of God (candlestick) is preached today with prayer (incense) and communion (showbread) in New Testament worship today (Acts 2:42).

We can see God’s foreshadowing the Word of God as a whole, even way back in Exodus! Let us treasure this book!