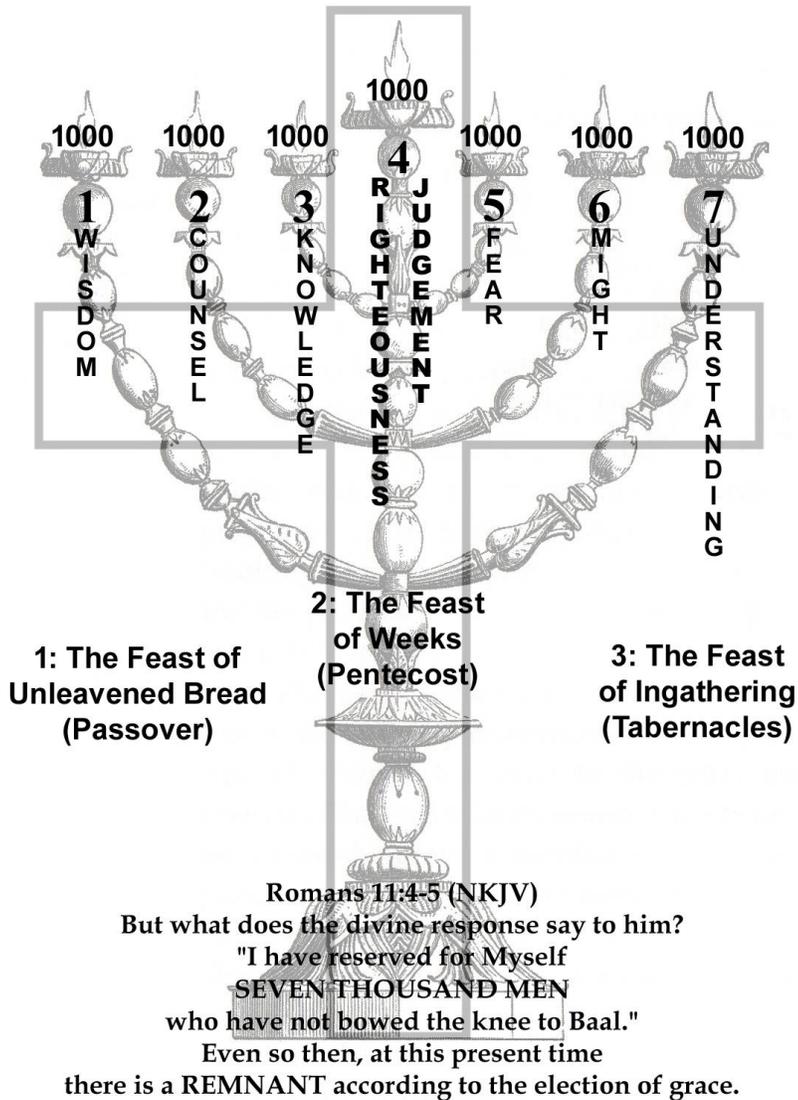


Isaiah 11:2

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him...

Revelation 4:5

...seven lamps of fire burning before the throne,
which are the seven Spirits of God.



The Seven Lamps of Fire

Isaiah 11:1-4 (ESV)

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the **Spirit of the Lord** shall rest upon him, the **Spirit of wisdom and understanding**, the **Spirit of counsel and might**, the **Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord**. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not **judge** by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with **righteousness** he shall **judge** the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

The lampstand found in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle of Moses makes a perfect illustration of many things, not the least of which is our *sevenfold* Spirit of God as described in our passages above.

Seven is the great number of *spiritual perfection* or *completeness*, signifying and summing up the other six components which precede it. So *righteousness* speaks of the wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. As our illustration shows, Christ is our righteousness and judges us not “by what His eyes see” or “ears hear,” but with “equity,” knowing the very thoughts and intents of our heart (Heb. 4:12).

Romans 11:1-5 (ESV)

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? ³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” ⁴ But what is God’s reply to him? “I have kept for myself **seven thousand men** who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” ⁵ **So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.**

2 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord **one day** is as a **thousand years**, and a **thousand years** as **one day**.

In the beginning, God called the light “Day” (Gen. 1:5). All light is a form of *fire*. So “day” speaks of the *light* or *fire* of the glory of God in His people and a “thousand years” also denotes this glory. There are *seven*

days in a week and *seven* branches on the lampstand. For each branch we have a fire or “light,” signifying a “day” or “thousand years.” Our seven branches therefore speak of “seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal,” symbolic of a “remnant” whom God has kept for Himself.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 (ESV)

¹ Now concerning the **times and the seasons**, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all **children of light, children of the day**. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

The “times and the seasons” are explained by the three great Feasts of Israel; Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. Time is necessary for seasons, and seasons are necessary for seedtime and harvest (sowing and reaping; Gal. 6:7-10).

The times and seasons reflect the sowing and reaping of God’s living Word throughout history for, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). Jesus tells us in Luke 8:11, “The seed is the Word of God.” In the long history of humankind, it is God’s Word which has been unfolding before us, bringing us forward according to His divine purpose.