

#### 4. Miracle of the Temple Menorah

For more background on the Menorah, see: Exodus 25:31-40; Exodus 35:5-8. In the Tabernacle there was one Menorah. In Solomon's Temple there were ten Menorahs. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple there was only one Menorah and it is said that "Whoever has not seen Herod's Building – has not seen a beautiful building in his life."<sup>7</sup> The Menorah was located on the South side of the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:24). Apparently because of the way the Menorah faced, the middle or "western" branch went out which was the central servant candlelight (Shamash in Hebrew) used to light the rest of the candlesticks or branches. The central light along with the central four lights were out.<sup>8</sup> Also in the Temple, this Menorah was to remain continuously lit. There is an interesting phrase that this (as well as other things) was called. Rabbis, Jerusalem, the Temple, as well as the Menorah were all called the "light of the world."<sup>9</sup>



##### John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

##### John 9:5

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

##### Matthew 5:14-16

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

##### Ephesians 5:8

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

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Are you a *Shamash*?

This document can be downloaded at: [www.holywordcafe.com/tours](http://www.holywordcafe.com/tours)

<sup>7</sup> Babylonian Talmud Bava Batra 4:A (see also [http://www.templeinstitute.org/gallery\\_28.htm](http://www.templeinstitute.org/gallery_28.htm))

<sup>8</sup> The Significance of the Year CE 30, Ernest Martin, Research Update, April 1994, p4 (found on [www.windowview.org](http://www.windowview.org)).

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.bible-light.com/BLON/STAR\\_V30-1\\_1998-02/feb98a52.htm](http://www.bible-light.com/BLON/STAR_V30-1_1998-02/feb98a52.htm)

## 40 Proving Years of Mercy [ANSWERS]

4 Miracles and the Messiah - by Chuck Louviere

### Leviticus 16:2-10

2: And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

3: Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering.

4: He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.

5: And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

6: And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

7: And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

8: And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. [Hebrew: עֲזָאזֵל Azazel]

9: And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

10: But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

### The idea of 40 Years

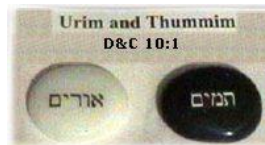
### Numbers 32:13

And the LORD's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.

### Deuteronomy 8:2

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

### Jerusalem Talmud Quote



"Forty years before the destruction of the Temple, the western light went out, the crimson thread remained crimson, and the lot for the Lord always came up in the left hand. They would close the gates of the Temple by night and get up in the morning and find them wide open."<sup>1</sup> [underlining mine]

<sup>1</sup> Jacob Neusner, The Yerushalmi, p.156-157

**Babylonian Talmud Quote**

“Our rabbis taught: During the last forty years before the destruction of the Temple the lot [‘For the Lord’] did not come up in the right hand; nor did the crimson-colored strap become white; nor did the western most light shine; and the doors of the Hekel [Temple] would open by themselves.”<sup>2</sup> [underlining mine]

Jerusalem Talmud	Babylonian Talmud
LOT: came up in the left hand	LOT: did <u>not</u> come up in the right hand
CRIMSON: remained crimson	CRIMSON: did <u>not</u> turn white
DOORS: would be wide open	DOORS: opened by themselves ( <u>not</u> closed)
MENORAH: light went out	MENORAH: did <u>not</u> shine

1. **Miracle of the Lot (black and white stones?)**

The chances of this happening for 40 years in a row have been estimated to be 5,479,548,800 (or about 5.5 billion) to 1.<sup>3</sup>

2. **Miracle of the Crimson Strip**

Some Jewish history sources indicate that *though not mentioned in the Bible* there was a practice to take a crimson strip of cloth and tie it to the *scapegoat* (Hebrew: *azazel*) and a portion of this was also tied to the temple doors.<sup>4</sup> Apparently, both would turn white indicating God’s acceptance of the offering and forgiveness of national sin.



**Hebrews 9:12**

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. (see also Heb 9:11-10:17, particularly 9:22 & 10:4).

**Isaiah 1:18**

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

**The Scapegoat**

**Leviticus 16:26**

And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp.

<sup>2</sup> Soncino version, Yoma 39b

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.windowview.org/jandg.files/pop.files/talmuds.30ce.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.biblehistory.net/newsletter/scapegoat.htm>

There is an ancient Hebrew legend about a stray scapegoat returning to Jerusalem (*imagine the surprise of the people*). From that time forward, it was deemed that all future scapegoats would be taken to a particular cliff and thrown off insuring its death. **This idea is interesting, a scapegoat that returned?**

“The goat was conducted to a mountain named Tzuk, situated at a distance of ten Sabbath days’ journey, or about six and a half English miles, from Jerusalem. At this place the Judean desert was supposed to commence; and the man in whose charge the goat was sent out, while setting him free, was instructed to push the unhappy beast down the slope of the mountain side, which was so steep as to insure the death of the goat, whose bones were broken by the fall. The reason of this barbarous custom was that on one occasion the scapegoat returned to Jerusalem after being set free, which was considered such an evil omen that its recurrence was prevented for the future by the death of the goat”<sup>5</sup>

3. **Miracle of the Temple Doors**

**Zechariah 11**

Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars.

**Josephus Quote**



“At the same festival (Passover)... the Eastern gate of the inner court of the Temple, which was of brass, and vastly heavy, and had been with difficulty shut by twenty men, and rested upon a base armed with iron, and had bolts fastened very deep into the firm floor, which was there made of one entire stone, was seen to be opened of its own accord about the sixth hour of the night.”<sup>6</sup>

**Matthew 27:50-51**

50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.  
51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

<sup>5</sup>Easton, M. G., M. A. D. D., Easton’s Bible Dictionary, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1996.

<sup>6</sup> Josephus; The Wars of the Jews 6.5.3