

66 Pieces, 1 Light

The Bible is full of significant numbers. Because God created man on the sixth day, six has always been considered as the number of man. This theme carries throughout the Scriptures to the Antichrist at the end (*Rev. 13*). He is the ultimate symbol of a self-glorifying, humanistic ruler. The number by which he will mark his subjects is 666 — the number of man.

There are many other instances in the Bible where the number six plays a significant role, but, let me get to the point. The Bible isn't a book about man. It's a book about God. However, isn't it interesting that God would reveal Himself to man in 66 books?

The fact that there are sixty-six books in the Bible is not an accident. Much prayer and deliberation preceded the decision of church fathers to compile the testaments in the fourth century. Much debate has since ensued over the books they affirmed as part of that volume, but God knew all along that the Bible would include 66 books. In fact, He foretold it. How?

In *Exodus 25-40*, God gave Moses the instructions for the Tabernacle, that earthly place wherein would dwell His presence. The Tabernacle was comprised of three sections — the outer courtyard, and, then, a tent with two rooms, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. Inside the first room, the Holy

Place, which is an Old Testament symbol of the New Testament (*Heb. 9:9*), there were three golden objects. They were the Table of Bread, the Altar of Incense, and, my favorite, the beautiful Lamp Stand.

In *Exodus 25*, Moses was given instructions for the assembling of the Lamp Stand. It was to have a main shaft and six branches (three on the left of the shaft and three on the right). The shaft and the branches were to bear a pattern of three different ornaments or symbols. God told Moses to fashion twelve ornaments (4 sets of 3) on the shaft of the lamp (for a total of 12) and nine ornaments (3 sets of 3) on each of the six branches (for a total of 54).

Since the Holy Place is representative of the New Testament, the Lamp Stand foreshadows the Bible and its importance in the lives of His people. "It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path," said David (*Ps. 119:105*). Is it not fascinating, then, that the Golden Lamp Stand, which represents God's Word, would have exactly 66 ornaments?

Here's the best part. Though the Scriptures are comprised of 66 books, they together shed but one light, evidence of their divine inspiration and the harmony of their message. **Sixty-six pieces but one light!** These books comprise one volume with one thrust — to reveal to man the person, plan, and purposes of God.

