THE MENORAH, THE ANCIENT SEVEN-ARMED CANDELABRUM

Origin, Form and Significance

BY

RACHEL HACHLILI



BRILL LEIDEN · BOSTON · KÖLN 2001

CONTENTS

List of Figures	xiii
List of Plates	xvii
Foreword	xxv
Acknowledgments	xxvii
INTRODUCTION	1
PART ONE	
THE LITERARY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTIMO INTERPRETATION	NY:
I. HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE MENORAH	7
A The History of the Menorah	7
B The First and Second Temple Menorah in the	
Light of the Sources and Archaeology	9
The Tabernacle Menorah: a Lampstand	9
The Menoroth in Solomon's Temple	16
The Menorah in Zechariah's Vision	18
Reconstruction of Zechariah's Lampstand	19
The Menorah of the Second Temple Period	22
Reconstruction of the Second Temple Menorah	25
C The Origin of the Menorah	36
II. DESCRIPTION OF THE FINDS: THE MENORAH	
IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL AND THE DIASPORA	41
A The Second Temple Menorah	41
B The Menorah on the Arch of Titus	46
C Free-standing, Three-dimensional Menoroth in Syn-	
agogues	51
D The Menorah in Synagogue Art and Architecture in	
the Land of Israel	58
E The Menorah in the Diaspora Synagogue	72
F Menorah Depictions in Burial Context	82

viii CONTENTS

	G The Menorah in Daily Life Context: Mirror Plaques,	
	Seals, Amulets, Jewellery	10
	H The Menorah Depicted on Clay Lamps	11
III.	THE FORM OF THE MENORAH	12
	A The Form of the Menorah and its Development	12
	The Base	13
	The Branches	14
	Light Fittings	15
	B The Typological and Chronological Development of	
	the Form of the Menorah	16
IV.	MEANING, INTERPRETATION, AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MENORAH	17
	A The Location of the Menorah in the Tabernacle, in	
	Solomon's Temple, and in the Second Temple	17
	B The Function of the Menorah in the Tabernacle, in	
	Solomon's Temple, and in the Second Temple	1
	C The Menorah Location and Function in the Synagogue	1
	D Function and Location of the Menorah in Jewish	1
	Burial and in Everyday Life	18
	E Special Meanings of the Menorah	18
	The Symbolism of the Seven Arms and the Three-	
	legged Base	18
	The Menorah Accompanied by a Hebrew Formula	19
	The Carved Menorah Mounted on The Head of a	
	Human Figure	19
	F Pairs of Menoroth	1
	G The Menorah with More or Less than Seven Arms	2
	H Menorah and Hanukkiyyah	2
	I The Significance and Symbolism of the Menorah	2
	J The Menorah as the Symbolic Emblem of the State	
	of Israel	2
V.	THE ACCOMPANYING RITUAL OBJECTS	2
	A The Flanking Ritual Objects	2
	The Shofar: a Ram's Horn	2
	The Lulay	2
	The Ethrog – a Citrus Fruit	9

CONTENTS	i:

	The Incense Shovel	218
	The Vase	220
	B Other Flanking Objects	227
	The Hanging (Suspended) Lamp	227
	Torah Scrolls	229
	Lions Flanking the Menorah	230
	Birds Accompanying the Menorah	233
	C The Shewbread Table	233
	D The Torah Shrine	239
	E The Ark of the Scrolls	242
	F Conclusions	247
VI.	WORKSHOPS, ARTISTS, CRAFTSMEN, AND	
	PATTERN BOOKS	251
	A Workshops and Artists	251
	Free-standing Marble Menoroth	251
	Mosaic Pavements	253
	Chancel Screens	254
	Wall Paintings	255
	Sarcophagi and Coffins	256
	Glass Pilgrim Vessels from Jerusalem	257
	Gold Glass Workshops	257
	Tombstones	257
	Clay Lamps	258
	B Pattern Books	260
	Patterns of the Menorah	260
VII.	THE MENORAH IN OTHER CONTEXTS:	
	SAMARITAN AND CHRISTIAN	263
	A The Menorah in the Samaritan Context	264
	Menorah on Samaritan Synagogue Mosaic Pave-	
	ments	264
	Menorah on Stone	266
	Menorah on Samaritan Clay Lamps	267
	B The Menorah in Christianity	269
viii	SHMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	975

X CONTENTS

PART TWO:

CORPUS

Corp	us of Menoroth on Finds in Israel	285
ISI	Early menoroth	285
IS2	Free-standing Menoroth	287
IS3	Menorah on mosaic pavements	288
IS4	Menorah on lintels	293
IS5	Menorah on chancel screens	304
IS6	Menorah on capitals	307
IS7	Menorah on columns	310
IS8	Menorah on architectural elements	311
IS9	Menorah on tomb doors	317
IS10	Menorah on tombstones	318
IS11	Menorah at the necropolis of Beth She'arim	328
	Menorah on bread stamps	336
	Menorah graffiti	337
	Menorah on pottery vessels	338
	Menorah on mirror-plaques	341
	Menorah on Jewellery, Amulets and Bulae	341
	Menorah on pilgrim vessels	347
	Miscellaneous	354
Corp	ous of Menoroth on Finds in the Diaspora	357
Dl	Early menoroth	357
D2	Free-standing menoroth	358
D3	Menorah on mosaic pavements	358
D4	Menorah on chancel screens	360
D5	Menorah on capitals and columns	361
D6	Menorah on architectural elements	362
D7	Menorah on catacomb paintings	365
D8	Menorah on tombstones, epitaphs and tiles	368
D9	Menorah on sarcophagi	427
D10	Menorah on gold glasses	429
D11	Menorah on seals, weights and jewellery	434
D19	Missellaneous	440

CONTENTS xi

Corp	ous of Menoroth on Lamps Found in Israel and the
Di	aspora
Li	'Darom' clay lamps
L2	Beth Nattif lamps
L3	Beth Nattif lamps b
L4	Discus lamps
L5	Caesarea round lamp
L6	Alexandria type lamp
L7	North African type lamp
L8	North African variation type lamps
L9	Miscellaneous Lamps
L10	Ovoid, Slipper and other lamps
Lll	Samaritan lamps
L12	Bronze lamps
L13	Multi-nozzle lamps
L14	Lamp mould
Abb	reviations
Bibli	ography
	Sary
	,
Inde	x of subjects
	x of sources
	ous, index of locations 1
-	ous, index of locations 2
	ous, index of locations 3
Plate	es
	Chapters
	orpus
-	Israel
	Diaspora
	Lamps