

Zechariah 4

Jesus

Visions Overview: Story of God's People/God's Kingdom Unfolding

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| 1. Vision of 4 Horses | Evaluation: Enemies of God at peace |
| 2. Vision of 4 Horns | Question: Will they be judged? |
| 3. Vision of 4 Craftsman | Answer: Every earthly kingdom will be judged. Last being AC by Jesus |
| 4. Vision of Measuring Line | Result: Rebuilding of Jerusalem current/future |
| 5. Vision of High Priest | Preparation: Repentance/Clean Clothes from our Great High Priest |
| 6. Vision of Branch/Stone | Identification of the King: Branch-His humanity/Stone-His deity |
| 7. Vision of Lampstand/Olive Trees | Holy Spirit's Work in His people Current/Future |

I. Vision of the Lampstand and Olive Trees

1 Now the **angel who talked** with me came back and **wakened me**, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.

- **Angel:** Not Angel of the LORD. Run of mill angel from 2:3
- **Wakened:** Awake to **see the vision...** [c.f. Peter angels waking people]

2 And [the angel] said to me [Zech], "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a **lampstand** of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand **seven lamps** with **seven pipes** to the **seven lamps**. 3 **Two olive trees** are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

- **Solid Gold Lampstand**

Exodus 25:31 [First Mention] You shall also make a **lampstand of pure gold**; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece. 32 And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.

Exodus 27:20 And you shall command the children of Israel that they **bring you pure oil** of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn [ascend] continually.

Exodus 31:1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "See, I have called by name **Bezalel** [lit. in the shadow of God] ...of the tribe of Judah. 3 And I have **filled him with the Spirit of God**, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, 4 to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze...



- **Most beautiful** of Seven pieces of furniture in Tabernacle/Temple
- **Design given by God** to Moses on Mountain...

Exodus 25:40 ... see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain. [Replica of that before the Throne]

Revelation 4:5b... Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

- **Zechariah's Lampstand:** Different than these in Two Ways
 1. **One Bowl:** Receptacle on Top
 2. **Two Olive Trees:** One on each side
- **Lampstand** God's People/Vessel God uses
- **Oil** God's Holy Spirit
- **Light** God's Work/Word through God's people



Joshua is a picture of God's people now **cleansed yet not quite ready for God's work**

- Without the oil there is no light...
- Without God's Spirit there is no power...
- Without God's Power, God's work cannot get done

We can be forgiven/saved yet not fully equipped for God's work
IOWs God's Spirit is the **only One** who can do God's work

- **What do you see? I see a Golden Lampstand between Two Olive Trees**

Since Zechariah and his people were there to rebuild the temple, it made sense that God spoke to them in images related to the temple. [Guzik]

4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, **"What are these, my lord?"** 5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." 6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but **by My Spirit,**' Says the Lord of hosts.

- **Word to Zerubbabel:** Political Leader charged w/building the Temple

Tell him...It will be by My Spirit that My work will be done

- **JV McGee** Not by Brains nor by Brawn **but by My Spirit**
- **NJC** Not by my might/Not by my power/but by the **power of Your Spirit**

7 'Who are you, O **great mountain?** Before **Zerubbabel** you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the **capstone** With shouts of "**Grace, grace to it!**" ' "

My Spirit of Grace working through you Zerubbabel will complete My work
IOWs Every Obstacle to Completing the Temple will be Demolished

- **Who are you Great Mountain?** What is our great mountain?
- **Capstone:** Jesus Christ who through His Spirit we overcome all mountains

Philippians 4:13 I can do **all things through Christ** who strengthens me.

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**

- **How are we connected to Jesus?** By His Spirit
- **How do we overcome every obstacle?** By His Spirit

Shouts of Grace/Grace: God alone deserves the glory for His unmerited favor!

8 Moreover the **word of the Lord came to me**, saying: 9 "The hands of Zerubbabel Have **laid the foundation** of this temple; **His hands shall also finish it.** Then you will know That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.

- **Word of the Lord came to me:** Zerubbabel will finish what he started
- **Q.** Evidence God is in a thing? **A.** That thing will be finished...

Philippians 1:6 ... He who has **begun a good work** in you **will complete it...**

- **So much is begun in the flesh** only to fall apart for the world to see
- **Yet...**Where the Lord guides the Lord provide. Period.

IOWs: God's Work is always Initiated, Sustained/Completed by God's Spirit

Psalms 127:1 [Solomon] Unless the Lord builds the house They **labor in vain** who build it...

IOWs God's Spirit is the **only One** who can do God's work

Oh! May God send us poverty; may God send us lack of means and take away our power of speech if it must be, and help us only to stammer, if we may only thus get the blessing. [Spurgeon]

You all get up plans and say, Now, if the church were altered a little bit, it would go on better. You think if there were different ministers, or different church order, or something different, then all would be well. No, dear friends, it is not there the mistake lies, it is that we need **more of the Spirit.** [Spurgeon]

**When the work is finished in spite of all opposition...
Then you will know the Lord sent me**

- There will be opposition to all the work of God
- **IOWs Wherever the Lord is working Satan is meddling**

10 For who has **despised the day of small things?**

- Zechariah/Haggai charged to encourage people to build
- People were busy w/new homes flat screens **but not content...**

Haggai 1:2 "Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, saying: '**This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built."**' " 3 Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in **your paneled**

houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" 5 Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: **"Consider your ways!** [Why is everything you start falling apart?] 6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a **bag with holes.**"

- So many so-called believers carrying a **bag with holes...**

Jeremiah 2:13 ... My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. [Really missing out on abundant Spirit-filled life]

Matthew 6:33 ...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

[Don't despise small things] In many of God's choice workers He uses a powerful season of small things. Those days are not a mistake nor are they punishment; they are days of priceless shaping/preparation. They are not days to despise. [Guzik]

- **Currently:** Foundation of Temple completed

Some praising God loudly/Some whining just as loud...

Those who despised what they would call a small thing...

Ezra 3:11b... all the **people shouted with a great shout**, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, **wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple** was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy, ¹³ so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the **noise of the weeping of the people**, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off.

Let not the dawning light be despised, for it will shine more and more to the perfect day. The day of small things is the day of precious things and will be the day of great things. [Henry]

- **Yet...**Always some Bummed out/Bumming others out

God Himself encourages His leaders to be strong in face of opposition...

Haggai 2:4 **Yet now be strong**, Zerubbabel,' says the Lord; 'and be strong, Joshua...the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the Lord, 'and work; for **I am with you**,' says the Lord of hosts. 5 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so **My Spirit remains** among you; do not fear!'

10b... For **these seven rejoice** to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the **eyes of the Lord**, Which **scan to and fro** throughout the whole earth."

Find strength in knowing that I rejoice in My work being done

Nehemiah 8:10b ...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

- **Great Strength:** Knowing we are doing God's will by His Spirit

Exodus 33:14 "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."15 Then [Moses] said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, **do not bring us up** from here.

Psalms 18:29 For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall.

Not by our might/Not by our power/but by the power of God's Omnipotent Spirit

▪ **Lampstand: Light-holders to Light the work of God by His Spirit [Oil]**

1. Symbolic of Jesus **I am the Light of the world**
2. Symbolic of the Church **We are the Light of the world**

Revelation 1:13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man... and the seven lampstands which you saw are the **seven churches**.

- **Lampstand** God's People/Light holders
- **Oil** God's Holy Spirit
- **Light** God's Work through God's people

11 Then [Zechariah] answered and said to him, "**What are these two olive trees**—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?" 12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these **two olive branches that drip into the receptacles** of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?" 13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." 14 So he said, "These are the **two anointed ones**, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

- Bowl allowed the lamps to receive oil as fast as it was used. Without measure
- Lampstand stems were continually replenished by the Two olive trees

Who are the Two Olive Trees who would replenish Israel?

Two Anointed ones: High Priest Joshua/Governor Zerubbabel

- **Anointed:** heb. *yits-hawr'* fresh oil, shining (pure) golden oil
- **Two Olive Trees:** Lit. Sons of Fresh Oil

**Representing God's Rule over Spiritual/Governmental realms/Over Heaven/Earth
These Two Symbolize the Kingdom of God**

These two men/Olive Trees would bring the Light of God to Israel for the work of rebuilding the Temple for the service of God. As God pours His Holy Spirit into them they would pour themselves into the task of motivating God's people who in turn would go forward in the power of the Spirit to complete the work of God commanded them to do. [NJC]

As these two witnesses would bring Light to Israel in Zechariah's day, so two witnesses will bring Light to all who would listen during the Tribulation period [c.f. Rev 11]. Final fulfillment of the Golden Lampstand symbolism will be seen at the 2nd Coming when God pours out His Holy Spirit on His people and establishes His Kingdom on earth. [NJC]

What's the point for us today? God's work is done not by my might nor my power but by the power of the Spirit of the Lord. Indwelt by Him. Led by Him. Empowered by Him to do God's will. Nothing God does for us is a small thing. Nothing we do for God is a small thing if His Spirit is in it. If He has initiated it, He will sustain it will complete it. Zerubbabel was called to build the temple by the Spirit of God, and we are called build His church one soul at a time by the Spirit of God.

Joshua a picture of God's people saved/forgiven and cleansed
Yet not quite ready for service...He needed to be empowered by the Spirit and so do we

IOWs: God's Spirit is the **only One** who can do God's work