



**Sweat It Not Because...
Golden Lampstands and Olive Trees
Zechariah 4**

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Anyone ever move? It seems to be an insurmountable task. There is so much to do. Turn this off, transfer this, pack that, and on and on.

By the time you are halfway through, you begin to wonder how you will ever be able to finish everything you must do. Some of us fudge a bit, we cut corners. Professional movers do that too.

We were transferred for work from Lubbock Texas to Austin, and then again from Austin to South Florida. Plenty of time to pack, toss and so on, right? Wrong.

Right after we arrived here in Florida, we were putting up some boxes and found one packed by the mover from that first move from Lubbock to Austin. It was the trash can from our office, and it still had trash in it. The mover fudged a bit and just packed it up.

What we have seen in the first 4 visions, on top of what we know from Haggai, is that those who returned in the first wave from exile came because they were following the Lord. They are the remnant of Israel, most are believers. They are there because that is where they believe God wants them to be.



They arrive back in Jerusalem to an uninhabited pile of rubble and wild animals. The task seems to be impossible. There is no way any of this will ever get done, there is just too much to do. What they do is no different than what anyone would do when confronted with a little bit of push back on top of a huge task, back burner it.

Push back from the locals added to the rubble problems and for 16 years nothing happened. They fudged a bit on getting stuff done. Haggai brought a word from the Lord, and they repented and turned back to the job at hand, rebuilding the Temple.

Stop and think about it though, everyone returning from Babylon just left the second largest city in the world. One with all the services and conveniences you could dream of in the ancient world.

By faith, they stepped out and walked the 1000 miles or so back to Jerusalem to return to a burned-out pile of rubble. The Temple was in the same state and the job looked impossible, but they were following the Lord and His calling. The neighbors were not happy to see them come back either. How do you keep going when there is little to show for all your efforts?

For anyone leading this effort, like Zerubbabel, it “must have seemed insurmountable, especially in view of God’s descriptions of the coming glory of Jerusalem and the temple. This fifth vision is given to show Zerubbabel that God gives divine enablement for the work that he has ordained.” (Austel 1995, 692)

That still holds for today. Where God guides, God provides is just as true today as it was then.

Proverbs 3:5–6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.” (GNB)

That is what we are doing in launching Calvary Chapel Martin County. We are simply taking the next step the Lord has shown us, and He continues to show up as we walk out in faith.

Those who returned to Jerusalem were doing the same, they returned to the land. The Lord wants His people there. The Temple must be rebuilt because Messiah will need to make use of it in a few hundred years.

Isaiah 58:11

“The LORD will always guide you and provide good things to eat when you are in the desert. He will make you healthy. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water or like a stream that never runs dry.” (CEV)

In those places which seem dry, He provides and not just a little, but “good things.”

Psalms 32:8

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.” (NKJV)

God Himself promises to be there for us as we step out in faith and follow Him. He promises good things. He also says that He will personally be involved in making sure we have those skills necessary to achieve what He wants to do through us.

We tend to limit God, meanwhile, He wants His people to do great exploits, like rebuild the Temple and rebuild Jerusalem.

He still wants us to be doing great exploits for Him. There is an entire world that still needs to hear the gospel and our own Judea which must be revived.



Zechariah has been up longer than he is normally used to. Seeing, hearing and understanding prophecy is hard work (Daniel 10:15-19, Revelation 1:17-18).

The Lord understands the magnitude of what it is He is showing to Zechariah, as well as Daniel or John for that matter. He became personally involved with the one He called to serve Him to make sure they were getting rest, strength and the understanding needed for the task He had for them. The same continues today for those He calls. Whatever the Lord has called you to do, He provides the same provision.

But for Zechariah, well, it happened, Zechariah has been up a bit longer than he is used to and between the fourth vision, and the kickoff of the fifth, he fell asleep. And it's time for another Zoom call.

This also makes it crystal clear that these are not dreams. He is awake for what he is seeing. I love the fact that the Lord wants to make sure he doesn't miss anything that He has in store for him to see and tell us about.

His guide for all the visions has been the Angel of the Lord

Zechariah 4:1-4

"Then the angel who had been speaking with me returned and woke me, like a person who is awakened from his sleep. And he said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side." Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" (NASB 2020)

It is important that Zechariah knows what he sees, thus the question from the angel, "What do you see?" He is receiving God's word. These are words we need to remember anytime we study God's word. What do you see?

Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is able to judge the desires and thoughts of the heart." (NET 2nd ed.)

The Lord wants His to understand what it is He has for them, not only do we have His word, but we also have a promise from the author.

John 14:26

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will cause you to remember everything I said to you." (NET 2nd ed.)

He so wants us to understand what we see in His word, that here Jesus tells us that one of the responsibilities of the Holy Spirit is to teach His word. He will remind us of those things we have read.

If we are reading His word, and we come across something we need help with, by all means, use commentaries and the like, but I have found a better resource is to pray about it and ask the Lord to show me what it means.

Jesus invites us to engage with the author and ask for help to understand. What does He promise the Holy Spirit will do for us? "He will teach you all things."

So, the question again, "what do you see?" Because we have an in with the author of the Bible, that answer is available to all of us.



Let me issue a challenge to you. Keep a notebook.

When you read a verse that is troublesome, pray and ask the Lord to have the Holy Spirit show you what it means, then stand back.

Simply wait for Him to do so. It could be something someone says, something you hear on the radio, a dream, or a word in a conversation, but the Lord will show you what it means. He promises to do that. Write down the answer and the date next to when you asked. And keep this as a log. Why?

When you are in that dry place where you are wondering if God is there, you have in your hand graphic evidence of how He has answered your prayer, over and over again.

For Zechariah, he has been roused back to attentiveness, and now Zechariah reports what he sees in front of him.

Zechariah 4:2b-3

"...And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side." (NASB 2020)

This is not your run of the mill menorah. This is not the lamp even described by Moses to go in the Holy place (Exodus 25:31-40).

What Zechariah would be familiar with is what he has dealt with in Temple service. At this point, it was entirely possible he had never seen the menorah. It was to be restored but we do not know the timing. But he knows the law and "in the tabernacle and the temple had stood a menorah—a seven-branched lampstand." There would have been ten of these inside the Temple of Solomon (1 Kings 7:48-50). (Bentley 1989, 132)

The lampstand was important though and had significance in the Temple. "In each instance, the light produced by the lampstands represents God's glory and his presence among his people. Moreover, the lampstands may also symbolize the people of God and the role they should play reflecting the Lord's light to the nations." (Klein 2008, 153-154)

But this is not that lampstand. This is a solid gold lampstand but unlike the one in the Temple and the Tabernacle, no priest needs to fill the bowl with oil.

At the top of the lampstand is a bowl for the oil which feeds the supply needed by the seven lamps and seven spouts connected with each lamp. in other words, each lamp has 7 wicks. This lampstand has, apparently, 49 separate lights. There was no need to fill the bowl with oil. From the bowl, the "oil was transported by gravity from the bowl through seven channels or conduits to each of the seven lights of the lampstand, apparently 49 conduits in all (v. 2); and (c) the lampstand was flanked by two olive trees which were tapped by "two gold pipes" through which "golden oil" flowed constantly into the bowl. (Lindsey 1985, 1555)

The greater the number of oil-feeding pipes the brighter the light of the lamps. The explanation in v. 6 is, that man's power by itself can neither retard nor advance God's work, that the real motive-power is God's Spirit. (Fausset n.d., 671)

This lampstand has a significant amount of plumbing connected to it as part of the oil distribution system. It is a plumber's nightmare. Human maintenance of this lamp is not needed as the oil comes direct from the olive tree on each side. It just flowed from the tree to the bowl and then to the separate lights.



Yes, I know it can't work that way, you must harvest the olives, and then crush them. I know, I got to help my Grandpa Ike harvest olives from his tree once and there was no oil on the branches. This is a vision.

The point of the vision is to show that God is the one who provides the oil for the lamp. For Zechariah, he wants to know what this is all about. Especially the supernatural provision of the oil.

Before going any further, let's make sure we know what oil symbolizes in the scriptures. Oil = the Holy Spirit and His work.

As oil was used for healing, for comfort, for illumination, and for anointing unto specific purposes, so the Holy Spirit heals, comforts, illuminates, and consecrates. (Chafer 1993, 47)

In Leviticus 2:1-16, the grain offering also references oil. Oil is mixed into the grain and baked, we also read at one point oil is poured onto it after it is broken up. This points to Jesus Christ at first in His human form, oil mixed with grain, and then the oil poured foresees the Holy Spirit enabled and empowered Christ and His ministry here on earth at His first coming.

Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. This is emphasized as we use, per the command given to us in James 5:14-15, anointing oil when we pray over someone for healing.

The use of a symbol for the Holy Spirit emphasizes the healer's awareness that he or she is not the possessor of healing power; rather, it is only when the Holy Spirit is mediated to the afflicted individual that healing can take place. Applying oil for healing appears to have a meaning similar to that of invoking the name of Jesus when praying for the sick. The healer is acting as an agent for the Lord, affecting healing by Christ's authority or in Christ's name. (Webber 1994, 336)

Oil is a symbol for the Holy Spirit, this is about ot made very clear for us by the Lord.

By the way, the menorah here would speak of Israel being a witness to the world.

Zechariah has reported what he has seen, and he has no idea what it means, so he asks a question about it.

Zechariah 4:4-5

"Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."" (NASB 2020)

Zechariah has explained what he sees, and he follows up with the same question any of us would ask as well, "what are these my lord?"

He is stumped. So, he asks the Lord for help to understand, and the Lord does for Zechariah just what He also does for us, if we ask for help with His word.

His question will be answered but before that takes place, the Lord asks him a question to help him move to understanding; Zechariah is asked a question, apparently about the two trees.

I love Zechariah's answer though – "I don't know." Then he sits and waits on the Lord for the answer. "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." (Luke 18:17, ESV)

Zechariah has humbled himself before the Lord with his admission coming as a child to be taught of the Lord.



Psalm 25:8–9

“Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. **He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.**” (ESV)

I remember in Bible school that there were those who came in thinking they really knew the Bible. I was embarrassed because I didn't know it as well as they did. I had only been a believer a few years and only serious about the Lord for a couple of years.

I was in school with folks who had been saved at 5, been to Sunday school, Christian schools too and they really knew their Bible.

Every day in class was an adventure for me. I couldn't believe what the Lord was allowing me to learn about Him. There was a small group of us former pagans, and we were excited – everyday. Not all were like that.

Some sat there almost challenging the professor to teach them something new. Arguments between some students and the professor tended to take place regularly. They would use God talk and theological jargon meant to impress, but I had no clue what was even being discussed.

The key phrase, “that will not be on the exam” was all I needed to hear. For us former untaught unwashed pagans, we were all kids in the candy store shocked to be allowed to go anywhere we wanted to go in the store. I was blown away daily by what the Lord was teaching me. When I asked a question, it was because I did not know and had just heard something from the Lord that was new. The professors were always kind to me too and answered my questions in great detail to help me understand. And they never said the magic phrase after answering one of my or other former pagan questions that were asked.

I remember an early assignment in English where we were to outline the first 3 chapters of Proverbs. I had never studied Proverbs, but I had read some of it. I actually blurted out, “You can outline Proverbs?”

The only one who did not laugh was the Professor.

That is where we learn about the Lord. When we approach Him and His word humbly, like children, like Zechariah, and allow Him to teach us, then we can truly learn from the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah knew the word; he was a priest. He had a lifetime of training, but he humbled himself before the Lord.

Zechariah 4:6–7

“Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel, saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of armies. ‘What are you, you great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring out the top stone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” ’ ” (NASB 2020)

Before the Lord answers the question and tells Zechariah what these two trees are, He has a word for Zerubbabel. The man the Lord is using to rebuild the Temple is doing the same thing you or I would do, looking at how in the world will we ever get this job done. God gives Him the key.

I remember my first day as a newly appointed manager. I had been promoted and then moved to Austin Texas. I really did believe that my skills and intellect would win the day and I was excited to begin. By the end of my first day, I was asking the Lord “why did I ever come to here in the first place.” I must have been out of my mind. My pride, gone. Did I still have the same optimistic outlook I began the day with, no. I had just inherited the worst run office in the United States that had never made a profit...ever.



Within a week I knew I couldn't do this and Zechariah 4:6 became one of my favorites. Only with the Lord could this be done.

I have learned from the business world, that when they hire you as a new manager replacing someone who just left, ask about why they left. Even then, you might not get the whole story.

Everything is not beautiful. People leave for a reason. Offices get moved, for a reason.

As we do ministry for Him and serve in the church or in the workplace working in what He has called us to do. It is easy to get sucked into the world's way of doing things. One of my teachers said this:

Let me be personal and very frank. Anything that Vernon McGee does in the flesh, that is by his own effort, God hates. He can't use it. It will come to nothing because it is nothing in the world but Vernon McGee building a haystack which ultimately is going to be consumed by fire. God wants to do His work through us, by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is important for us to see. (McGee 1997, 924)

Zerubbabel would have confronted a similar situation upon his initial arrival from Babylon. He knew it would be bad, but seeing wild animals walking through the ruins of the Temple would have been overwhelming. He would remember the words of Jeremiah and be moved to tears.

Lamentations 5:16–18

“The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned! Because of this our heart is faint; Because of these things our eyes grow dim; Because of Mount Zion which is desolate, With foxes walking about on it.” (NKJV)

The destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar, and the destruction by Titus as well, both took place on the same day of the same month but in different years.

Tisha b'Av, the ninth day of the month of Av (July–August), is the saddest day in the Jewish calendar. It is a fast day that marks the anniversary of the destruction of the First Temple by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E. and the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 C.E. (Eisenberg 2004, 304)

There are other events that also are alleged to have taken place on that day as well. The Mishnah provides some detail.

On the ninth of Ab (1) the decree was made against our forefathers that they should not enter the land, (2) the first Temple and (3) the second [Temple] were destroyed, (4) Betar was taken, and (5) the city was ploughed up [after the war of Hadrian]. (Neusner 1988, 315)

It is also the day that 10 spies brought back their report leading to 40 years in the wilderness. Tradition also says it is the day in 1290 when the Jews were kicked out of England and in 1492, Spain.

Just this year, on Tisha B'av, an event took place in Jerusalem reminding observant Jews of the prophecy to rebuild the Temple.

A fox was spotted along the southern wall of the Temple Mount on Wednesday night, as Tisha Be'Av, the day when the two Temples of Jerusalem were destroyed, was marked. The sighting of the fox went viral, with social media users saying the sighting was a sign of a prophecy coming true (Micah 3:12). (Joffre 2023)

Because of seeing the fox, observant Jews find themselves pointing to Zechariah 8:4 as another prophecy about to come true.



"We, who were Rabbi Akiva's students, remember how he consoled his friends when they saw the same image, immediately after the destruction of the Temple. May it be that just as we were privileged to see with our own eyes what Rabbi Akiva and his friends saw, so we will be privileged to witness what Rabbi Akiva promised his friends, soon in our time, Amen." (Joffre 2023)

Zechariah 8:4

"The LORD of armies says this: 'Old men and old women will again sit in the public squares of Jerusalem, each person with his staff in his hand because of age.'" (NASB 2020)

The rubble and destruction was probably more extensive than Zerubbabel ever thought. Then there was push back from the neighbors and an initial loss of support from his boss. I can understand why they pushed pause for 16 years.

He and those who came with him, thanks to the ministry of Haggai, have repented. The situation is still bad. The Temple is still in rubble. The city walls are still nowhere to be seen, but Temple ministry has restarted thanks to Joshua.

God has a message for this man. It has real meaning for Zerubbabel. We will also see it has the same for us. Here is the message again.

Zechariah 4:6b

"'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of armies." (NASB 2020)

There are three key words here.

Might – הַיִּל (hayil) faculty, power, strength; wealth, property; competent; brave; landowner; army; upper class. (Brannan 2020)

Power – כֹּחַ (koah) strength, power; ability; property. Strength - the property of being physically or mentally strong. Power (physical) physical strength. Power - possession of controlling influence; often understood as manifesting influence over reality in a supernatural manner. Ability (quality) the quality of being able to perform; especially a quality that permits or facilitates achievement or accomplishment. Possession - anything owned or possessed; sometimes used collectively for all of a person's possessions: (Lexham Press 2017)

My Spirit – רוּחַ (ruach) breeze, breath; wind; spirit; sense, mind, intellectual frame of mind. The Holy Spirit. (Brannan 2020)

Zerubbabel is called of God and He is working in that calling. He is rebuilding the Temple. Rubble and burned debris everywhere. Heavy stones must be moved from a quarry and to the site. There is limited manpower. Yet this is work God wants done. What God tells him is applicable to us as well as we work in our calling too.

First God tells him how the work will not be done.

Might: The work God has called you and me to, will not be done with those normal human resources we would ordinarily rely on. It makes no difference to the Lord what our stamina is, and our strength is.

That is off the table. The first word also tells us that whatever our learning is, whatever our degrees are, they don't count either. Whether you have a lot of money or none at all makes no difference to the Lord. In other words, as it pertains to do doing the calling you and I have been called to, anything we have been told by the Harvard Business Review, MBA programs, church growth seminars, training courses or any self-help books that say are must haves to succeed; they are not going to cut it. On to the next word.



Power: Simply another way of saying what we have already said. Man's methods and ways to achieve success in any calling of God is worthless.

Now we come to the secret sauce, that one "must have" to achieve success in whatever it is the Lord has called you to do. Whether it is demolition, stone cutting, carpentry, masonry, concrete work, metal working, glass making, security, administration, management, or ministry. You will never succeed in the eyes of the Lord unless you recognize this – it all only happens because of the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Notice what the list begins with, those items which are of major concern to Zerubbabel. For the church, the message is very simple. To succeed in whatever work it is the Lord has called us to, we must be fully empowered with the Holy Spirit and be Spirit filled, Spirit empowered and Spirit led.

For New Testament believers, we are talking about the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit, is not an experience that God grants to us merely to make us happy. It will indeed bring into our lives a joy such as we never knew before. But that is not its main purpose. The Baptism with the Spirit is not intended to make us happy but to make us effective. We should not look and long for ecstatic experiences, but for power and efficiency for God. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is not even primarily for the purpose of cleansing from sin, but for the purpose of empowering for service. (Torrey 1895, 14-15)

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (ESV)

Example one – Peter, pre-baptism he had a problem with foot in mouth disease. Post baptism – a seriously powerful preacher with thousands saved with his first message which was given totally with the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Notice, I said this power will empower us in that area of calling, and your calling is not mine. We all are called by the Lord.

Zerubbabel was called to be the leader making sure the Temple is rebuilt. He was a powerful leader, encourager, administrator and manager. Because he was empowered with the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah 4:7

"What are you, you great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring out the top stone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" (NASB 2020)

A mountain of rubble is seen every day he arrives at the jobsite. But the Lord says that mountain of debris will become flat.

Zerubbabel will be the one who brings in the capstone or the final stone in the rebuilding of the Temple. As he does so, there will be shouts of "Grace, grace to it."

In other words, the leader of God's people would complete the temple and place the final touch on its highest point, and the beauty of the rebuilt house of the Lord would be evident to everyone who saw it. All this would come about through the work of God's Spirit, not because of Zerubbabel's strength or the might of the people. God's Spirit can conquer our greatest obstacles. (Fries, Rummage and Gallaty 2015, 122-123)

This is not going to be a long-drawn-out construction process. Zerubbabel will see it to completion. He will be part of the rejoicing that will take place when it is completed.



What is it that God has called you to do? Take that step of faith that he is calling you and me to take and get going. For some of us, like me, that usually means a kick in the pants. Just step on out.

I don't know what mountain you are looking at right now that is making you rethink what He wants you to do. I spent years doing that and now, seeing the Lord move. I can't praise Him enough.

For most of us, each day of rethinking leads us down a path of defeat before we ever even got started. We pressed pause right at the beginning and that is where Satan wants to leave us. Disillusioned and defeated. Whatever objections we can raise to getting the job done, and like Zerubbabel we have a lot of them, The Lord says "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord. What are you, you great mountain, you will become a plain."

My objections were all real and I was right, I could never overcome them. But the Holy Spirit, who lives inside you as a believer can and He wants to empower you to do great exploits for the Lord.

When I was in High School, I participated in Football, Wrestling and Track. I did track solely to do something to keep me from having to take PE the last part of each school year. I was not very good at any event so because of my size, I gravitated to the shot put.

I did well in football and wrestling. But as I became more serious in my walk with the Lord, the Holy Spirit led me away from those two sports. Literally kicking and screaming the whole time. He told me, Track.

But Lord, I do not have the physical capabilities to do this. He showed me Zechariah 4:6.

The Lord led me to go to Bible School at Biola. Even though I did not play football my senior year, I still received several scholarship offers to play. The Lord said no – track.

So, I went on a partial track scholarship to Biola. I was not very good either. But my coach held the world record in the indoor shot, and he was encouraging me in the weight room and on the field. He told me I needed to do another event as well, so after praying, the Lord led me to the hammer throw. I had never done this, ever. So, I began to learn how to do this.

It was all the Lord. I could not take credit for anything. But He began to bless. When I hit a bunch of parked cars, we knew it was time to build a new place to practice out in the boonies on campus. And the Lord continued to bless as I finished 7th in the nation the third year I competed in the event. My senior year the Lord proved to me once and for all that He is the one who is doing this as I finished first in the National Track Meet winning by just 1 ½ inches.

Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord.

Zechariah 4:8–10

"Also the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of armies has sent me to you. For who has shown contempt for the day of small things? But these seven will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel—they are the eyes of the LORD roaming throughout the earth."" (NASB 2020)

This is a word of encouragement for Zerubbabel, and a confirming prophecy for Zechariah.

Zerubbabel began this and he will be the one who finishes it. When he does, then you Zerubbabel and you Israel, will know that Zechariah is a prophet called by God. With some of the things yet to come in this book, this is logical.



There were many who were pessimistic about the building project that Zerubbabel was engaged in. Many who were had remained back in Babylon, but some had come with him naysaying the entire time. Many of them were passing away as they were the older ones who remembered what the Temple used to look like.

Zechariah 4:10

“For who has shown contempt for the day of small things? But these seven will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel—they are the eyes of the LORD roaming throughout the earth.” (NASB 2020)

This is more of an admonition. We see that in the NLT translation.

Zechariah 4:10

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand.” (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.)” (NLT)

We all must start somewhere. He is rebuilding the Temple and it will not be the big grand temple of Solomon, but this temple he is building will have Jesus Christ walk into it.

The key is this though, the Lord is in this. Who despises the day of small things? We do. We have been fed the line from the culture that bigger is better and in some cases it does help to facilitate ministry. But everything does start small.

The stone with the seven facets is alluded to here.

The LORD Himself was glad to see Zerubbabel building with his plumb line, as His omniscient eyes (“these seven,” cf. 3:9) surveyed all that was happening in the world, especially in Jerusalem (cf. 2 Chron. 16:9). The Hebrew words translated plumb line may mean separated (i.e., chosen) stone. In this case, the idea would be that the LORD, in addition to His people, would rejoice when He saw the capstone put in place (cf. v. 7; Ezra 6:16–22). Now His people could serve Him as He purposed. (Constable 2003, 2020, Zec. 4:10)

So, about the QA on the trees.

Zechariah 4:11–14

“Then I said to him, “What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?” And I responded the second time and said to him, “What are the two olive branches which are beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden oil from themselves?” So he answered me, saying, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.” Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.”” (NASB 2020)

Did you notice that Zechariah had to ask this question two times? Why is that?

Yes, the Lord does indeed invite us to seek the assistance of the Holy Spirit in seeing what is in His word, but there is also the expectation that we will continue to seek Him through His word. Our answer might be a chapter away. Or reading somewhere in the Bible will trigger the answer. The bottom line, we need to continue to search the scriptures.

Paul commended a group of Jews who searched the scriptures daily. They would hear him teach, and then they would see if the Bible covered that.



Acts 17:11

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (ESV)

The Angel of the Lord was looking to see if Zechariah could figure this out on his own with the words just delivered to Zerubbabel.

He answers the question, the two trees are the two Spirit anointed men who are involved in rebuilding the Temple, the city and the nation, Joshua and Zerubbabel.

God was patient with Zechariah and even though he still did not see it, the Lord helped him to see it. God will achieve His purposes through these two, now spirit filled and empowered men as they lay the foundation for Messiah. When He says the two anointed ones, the phrase is “sons of oil” in the Hebrew.

The supply of oil, the Holy Spirit, is unlimited and they are consecrated for the task at hand.

We see three things in this vision:

1. With God, all things are possible.
2. God uses Holy Spirit empowered people to do His work.
3. God delights in small beginnings.

If you have found yourself pushing pause, back up and restart. What was the last thing the Lord was saying to you to do? Repent and then do it.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)



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