

## ***Zechariah Chapter 4***

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V: 1 The angel talks with and explains the various aspects of the visions now revealed to Zechariah.

- Since he was awakened by the angel, I would presume that the previous chapters were dreams, now it's a vision.

Speaking of angels:

**Hebrews 1:14** “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”

- Jeremiah, Daniel, and many others had visions that they didn't quite understand, and the angelic messengers often had to explain what was being presented.
- We see the same thing in the book of Revelation where the angel & elders at times has to explain to John what he's seeing.
- We're often in the same boat: reading our Bible, taking in God's Word but not quite understanding what we're reading.

**John 16:13** “However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak of Himself / on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

V: 2 He sees a golden menorah, the difference being that this one has a golden bowl on top of it that collects the oil, then 7 pipes that distribute the oil to the seven lamps.

First described:

**Exodus 25:31-38, Exodus 37:17-23** describing a lampstand (Menorah) of pure gold, one piece hammered into a shaft with 6 branches, it's bowls, with 7 lamps.

- The priests would enter into the Holy Place daily to trim the wicks and fill the lamps with the Holy Oil to keep the lamps burning continuously.

**Revelation 1:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man...”

- Part of the heavenly scene, the throne room of Heaven:

**Revelation 4:5** “And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.”

- The Lampstand / Menorah in the Tabernacle represented Jesus who according to

**John 1:9** “That True Light which give light to every man coming into the world.”

**John 8:12** “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

- That light in the Tabernacle would illuminate the table of show bread - which not only represented the 12 tribes of Israel, but was also symbolic of Jesus Christ.

**John 6:35, 48** “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

V: 3 Adjacent to the golden lampstand are two olive trees, one on each side of the bowl that feeds the lampstand. (Joshua and Zerubbabel)

- This is describing that the lampstand is no longer maintained by human effort; the priests coming in regularly trimming the wicks and replenishing the oil to fuel the lamps.
- In this vision the lamps are replenished continually by the two olive trees emitting the olive oil - symbolic of the Holy Spirit replenishing the lampstand.

Further explanation / commentary:

**Revelation 11:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.  
<sup>4</sup>These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.”

V: 4-5 Zechariah is answering the angel and describing what he is seeing but still doesn't understand exactly what he is seeing, so the angel explains.

**Psalms 131:1** “LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me.”

David describes:

**Psalms 139:6** “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.”

V: 6 The angel explains that what he has just seen is a literal depiction that the light of the lampstand is not maintained by human effort and strength but by the Spirit of God.

**Psalms 127:1** “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

- The first Temple built in Solomon's day and later destroyed by the Babylonians was built by a king, Solomon who exercised kingly authority. When they built the Temple they had almost unlimited resources and wealth. King David had fought many battles and taken much spoil that was dedicated to the building of the Temple along with the wealth of Solomons vast riches. Solomon had an army and authority, but in Zechariah's day they had none of that.
- Granted Cyrus sent them back with the Temple implements and an allotment to rebuild the Temple which had been exhausted by Zechariah's time. The point is that God doesn't need our riches or skills to accomplish His work. It's a work of the Spirit.

Remembering Haggai's encouragement:

**Haggai 2:5** "According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!"

- In a similar way, we can't earn or accomplish our salvation through our human efforts, it is a work of the Spirit through Jesus Christ.

**John 15:5** "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He that abides in Me, and I in Him brings forth much fruit, apart from Me you can do nothing."

**Matthew 16:18** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

- The grace of God, His unmerited favor is a gift that we can't earn and don't deserve, it's all based on His divine work and effort, not ours.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** "8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9not of works, lest any man should boast."

V: 7 Zerubbabel faces a great challenge in the rebuilding of the Temple and eventually the city walls and so on - an insurmountable task, a "great mountain" if you will - (discouragement, opposition, poor crops / bad economy, disobedience to God's Word) but with God's help, with the power of the Holy Spirit doing the work, that mountain will be flattened out and become a plain.

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

- All because God is doing that impossible work.

**Matthew 19:26** "But Jesus looked at them and said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

*"And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "grace, grace to it!"*

- As the Temple is eventually completed this will usher in the coming of the Messiah, the “capstone” the cornerstone that was initially rejected and finally received.

**Psalm 118:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. <sup>23</sup>This was the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.”

V: 8-9 The Word of the LORD again comes to Zechariah that Zerubbabel’s hands have laid the foundation of the Temple, and his hands will also finish it. Just like the work of God in our lives:

**Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

- This is both a confidence builder for Zerubbabel in case he was experiencing any doubt due to the greatness of this project, and to the people as the completion of the Temple would indeed affirm that the LORD of hosts had sent Zechariah with this message.
- The fact that Zechariah’s prophecy would be fulfilled was an indication that it was from the LORD according to the Biblical standard for prophets.

**Deuteronomy 18:20-22** “<sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. <sup>21</sup>And if you say in your heart, how shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken. <sup>22</sup>When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

V: 10 There are a couple two or three way to look at this verse. One is that it’s a small thing with the Lord to do this, insurmountable with man, but a small thing for God.

**1 Corinthians 1:27** “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to same the things which are mighty.”

- It could also be that this current work in comparison to the previous Temple would seem small in their eyes, don’t despise the Work of God in your midst, small or large.
- Another way to look at it is that often times big projects start off with small steps, steps of preparation.
- To paint a house and make it look good, there is always the prep work, the sanding and scraping.

- With construction there is the preparing the ground, planning, gathering the materials.
- Ministry projects or missionary endeavors; laying the foundation in prayer, bathing it in prayer. Getting the education needed to communicate with your target people or developing a needed skill to minister.
- Wanting to be that man or woman of God that is grounded in God's Word - takes time and patience, perseverance in God's Word.

**Isaiah 28:9-10** <sup>9</sup>Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? <sup>10</sup>For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little."

- The small things that make the bigger things possible, don't despise the day of small things.

*"For these seven rejoice to see...."*

- Referencing back to **Zechariah ch. 3:9** the Stone with 7 eyes - referring to the omniscience of God - God delights to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand because he is being obedient to do what God has called him to do.
- Our obedience or lack of it indicates where our heart truly is:

**2 Chronicles 16:9** "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him..."

Jesus said:

**John 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

V: 11-14 What are these two olive trees on either side of the lamp stand and the branches that drip into the golden bowl at the top of it?

- "You don't know? - Let me tell you..."
- These are the two anointed ones: anointed by the Holy Spirit - who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.... that's fine and dandy, but who are they?
- In the context of Zechariah it would seem that Zerubbabel and Joshua fit the bill.
- When it comes to the prophetic fulfillment, speculation continues.
- In Revelation 11 we have the two witnesses:

**Revelation 11:3-6** <sup>3</sup>And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.

<sup>4</sup>These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. <sup>6</sup>These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.”

- We know the identity of one of those witnesses is Elijah.

**Malachi 4:5** “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

**Matthew 17:11** “... Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.”

- Who is the 2<sup>nd</sup> witness? Speculation abounds. Enoch? Moses? Elijah? Joshua? John the Baptist, perhaps some NT figure? Zerubbabel?
- We know from Haggai Ch. 2 that Zechariah is a chosen vessel he’s going to be a witness.

**Haggai 2:23** “In that day,” says the LORD of hosts, I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel, says the LORD, and will make you a signet ring; for I have chosen you says the LORD of hosts.”

- It is possible that Zerubbabel would be a candidate to be the other witness, because as it describes the two witnesses in the book of Revelation, it says, these are the two olive trees, referring to the prophecy of Zechariah.
- Zechariah Ch.'s 3 & 4 seems to describe Joshua and Zerubbabel as the two olive trees who’s oil flows into the lamp stand of the Lord, but it’s a little ambiguous.

**Zechariah 4:14** “These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the LORD of the whole earth.”

- I guess we’re going to have to wait and see! Another reason to look forward to being in heaven.

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## ***Zechariah Chapter 5***

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V: 1-2 Another vision this time of a flying scroll, 20 cubits X 10 cubits. (30' X 15')

- At times the prophets were told to write down the things they were speaking of, as if to better inform the recipients, in this case of the judgment to come upon thieves and liars.

**Isaiah 8:1** “Moreover the LORD said to me, take a large scroll, and write on it with a man’s pen concerning Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. (his son)

- Describing the judgment upon them.
- It’s a flying scroll, indicating it will be swift judgment.

V: 3-4 The curse or the judgment has two parallels: The scroll has the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment on one side - do not steal (**Exodus 20:15**) and the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment on the other side **Exodus 20:16**, do not lie. The other parallel is near the end of the book of Revelation.

**Revelation 21:8** “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

**Revelation 22:15** Liars...

- The scroll represents the Law of God that brings a curse on all who disobey it.

**Galatians 3:10** “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”

- Why focus on thieves and liars? Versus adulterers and other shades of sinners?
- Looking back over the various prophets and summarizing somewhat, it would seem that the hearts of the people were being stolen from God through the lies of the false prophets and false teachers.
- They are again being warned of a coming day of judgment, it’s time to repent and avoid those things!

**Greater context:** If they’re going to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit then the sin issues need to be addressed and dealt with in a Biblical manner. Repentance!

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

V: 5-7 Another vision: A basket with a lead disc cover, and a woman sitting in the basket. (She’s might be a basket case...)

- Their resemblance throughout the earth - this is a world wide event of sorts.

V: 8-11 The woman is described as wickedness, symbolizing the wickedness of the Jews being carried away to the land of Shinar, which is Babylon, the lead disk being a heavy weight of the Babylonians being placed upon the Jews in their captivity.

- The two women with wings like a stork, an unclean bird - perhaps representing the Babylonians and the Medo-Persian empires.