

Zechariah 4-5

Bible Study

Review

Ch. 1 First vision-- Key to all the visions:
God remembers his people

Christ will return, will rebuild and restore Jerusalem

Ch. 1 Second vision—Four horns and craftsmen
Israel's foes are defeated

Ch. 2 Third vision—Measuring line
Millennial prophecy concerning future reconstruction and expansion of the city

Ch. 3 Fourth vision—of Joshua (High Priest)
Cleansing of the priesthood... a type of cleansing the people

Removing filthy garments (sins)...by Christ's sacrifice...and reinstated to his priestly duties
to walk in God's ways and judge his house

“Branch” (Christ)...will build the temple (spiritual one)

He “will remove iniquity...in one day” ...when Satan is put away (Atonement)

Chapter 4

Fifth Vision: Golden candelabra and olive trees

Meaning: Servants of God and strength from God's spirit

Previous vision: Joshua the High Priest (religious leader)...had been cleansed and reinstated for his priestly duties

Now the civil leader (Zerubbabel) needs to be strengthened for his duties as well

Remember Zerubbabel had been frustrated for many years in the attempt to build the temple

The strength and assurance would come in the form of this vision and the prophets message

Use of symbols
Bible uses symbolism throughout

Verse 1

The interpreting angel returns ...possibly after receiving more information from God

Zechariah wakened to see the vision

Verse 2

Zechariah sees:

- A golden lampstand...a candelabra (Symbolic)

A bowl on top of the lampstand

- (A temple scene)

On the stand:

- Seven lamps
- Seven pipes to the seven lamps

In Zechariah's day the people would have seen this as the **candelabra** of the temple

- The Menorah

However it is different from the Menorah:

A bowl....and two olive trees by it (v. 3)

Lampstand **symbols**:

- Significance for Zechariah's day and
 - The Church

Lampstand of all gold:
a symbol of purity and preciousness

Number Seven: number of fullness or completeness

Revelation 1: 12-16, 20 (lampstand imagery)

- Seven lampstands **symbolize** the seven **Churches** making up the whole Church of God

A lamp helps us see in the dark

- A symbol of God's word and his law (Ps. 119: 105)
- Should shine forth from God's people (Mat. 5: 14)

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house.

¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The bowl on top is the source of something

1. The bowl is the **source** of the oil to the lamp (Menorah of the temple)
2. Represents the source of God's spirit to his people (the Church)

The bowl represents God's presence and the supply of his spirit
➤ Pictured sitting over the Menorah (lamp)

Verse 3

Two olive trees: one to the right and one to the left

Olive oil—comes from the trees and goes:
Into the bowl

Oil gives **light** to the lampstand

(Matthew 25: 1-13)

Oil represents God's Holy Spirit...which his disciples are to keep a ready supply of it

God's spirit enables his people to shine as lights to the world

Verse 4

Zechariah asks the angel the significance of the vision (v. 2-3)

Zechariah knew what the Menorah was as it pertained to the furnishings of the temple...
What was its significance for their day?

Verse 5

The angel answered Zechariah: “Do you not know what these are?”
As if the angel expected him to know

Verse 6

Angel answers: “This is the word of the Lord”

- The vision is God’s word...a prophecy in symbols

Verse 6 is the key to the vision...(of the lampstand)

- **God’s spirit (oil)** is the main element of the vision of Chapter 4

“To Zerubbabel”

- Pertaining to the work of building the temple

“not by (your) might nor (your) power, but **by my spirit...** would the success of completing the temple be done

Haggai 2:4-5

⁴Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the Lord; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, 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!

Lesson to the Church:

God's spirit gives the power to succeed...

In building the spiritual temple (the Church)...and our individual spiritual temple

God's spirit helps us overcome the obstacles

(Mark 10: 27)

“With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible”

Zerubbabel represents the people in this vision, just as Joshua did in the previous vision

Verse 7

“Great mountain”= any problem...
like what they faced in building the temple

“you shall become like a plain”= taken down and leveled out
➤ Nothing will stop what God has planned to do

“and he (Zerubbabel) shall bring forth the capstone” ...of the temple being built

It was the custom of the day for the officials to lay the foundation of a building as well as the capstone

- Capstone—the top stone that finishes the building

The Church (God’s temple today)

Christ is the headstone (Psalm 118: 22)...head of the Church

²² The stone *which* the builders rejected, Has become the chief cornerstone.

The Church has been sent forth as the marvelous light
(I Peter 1: 19) “light that shines in a dark place” ...we have our role in this light

“shouts of grace, grace”

Christ brought grace (forgiveness)...and worked many miracles

Verse 8

God was addressing Zechariah the prophet

Verse 9

The completion of the temple is in view

“His hands shall also finish it”

Finished anciently in the 6th year of king Darius (Ezra 6:15) 515 BC

Zerubbabel is a type of end-time spiritual temple being restored and prepared for the return of Christ

Zechariah 6:12

¹²Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name *is* the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord;

“then you (Zechariah) will know that the Lord of Hosts (God the father) has sent Me (Messiah) to you
(Chapter 2: 9, 11)

“never be surprised that the Holy Spirit brings the Messiah into the picture”
(Feinberg)

Verse 10

“small things”—**nothing too small that cannot be finished**

Remember opposition to the temple building...including the people’s own indifference

The day of small things was the day the temple rebuilding began

Problems are “small things”—when the Messiah and Holy Spirit are involved

“these seven”= information gathering angels (Rev. 5:6)...which “scan...the whole earth”

“rejoice to see”—the building of Jerusalem:

“plumb line”—to make sure the walls of Jerusalem are true and right...

In Zerubbabel’s work of restoration to ancient Jerusalem

Christ who builds the spiritual temple makes sure **disciples are aligned** with him

Isaiah 28:16-17

¹⁶ “Behold, I lay in Zion (Church) a stone (Christ)...a sure foundation...

¹⁷ Also I will make justice the measuring line, And righteousness the plummet...”

Amos 7:8

“Behold, I am setting a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.

Verse 11

Zechariah now asks what is the **meaning** of the two olive trees of verse 3?

One olive tree at the right of the lampstand...

The other olive tree at the left of the lampstand
➤ (Two trees full of oil)

Verse 11-12 (Paraphrase)

“Then I asked him about the two olive trees on each side of the lampstand, and about the two olive branches that emptied through two golden tubes “

Verse 13

Zechariah does not know the meaning

Verse 14

“Two anointed ones”= sons of fresh oil (margin)...nourished from the bowl (of God’s spirit)

They are “anointed” with God’s spirit...but also “anoint” or administer God’s spirit to others

Historically Joshua and Zerubbabel were the two anointed ones who led the rebuilding of the temple...

And used God's spirit to lead the nation back to God

Future: Two witness will accomplish God's work

Revelation 11:3-4

³And I will give **power** to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

⁴These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** standing before the [£]God of the earth.

➤ Given power by means of God's Holy Spirit

Chapter 5

Verse 1-4

Sixth Vision: **Flying scroll** or roll (carpet)

➤ Ancients wrote on rolls of papyrus

Meaning: Tell the people the consequences of their sins

➤ Judgment follows

A recurring theme of Zechariah is spiritual renewal...this involves:

- Restoring the repentant (removing the filthy garments)
 - Now disciplining: (plumb line to set straight)

Verse 1

“flying scroll”

‘flying’= swiftness of coming punishment or no escape from judgment it brings

Verse 2

Description of its size: 10 x 20 cubits...likely 15 x 30 feet...like a large billboard...big enough to see

(Feinberg) “the Holy place in the tabernacle of Moses (where the law was read) were of the same dimensions (1 Kings 6: 3)

Verse 3 Explanation of the vision

Flying scroll bears a **curse**...

1. Warning the people against sin—thief and false witness mentioned
2. Can be the judgment curse of exile— “shall be expelled”

“over the face of the whole earth”—where God’s people are scattered

- End time prophecy (exile of Israel)

The commandments carried a curse for the violators of them
(Deut. 27: 15-26; 28: 15-68)

The scroll was written on both sides:

“Thief”—represented the middle commandment of duties toward man

“perjurer” (swearing falsely in God’s name v. 4)—represented middle commandment of duties toward God

“shall be expelled”—the punishment

Verse 4

“Curse”—what the roll contains

“enter the house of the thief” ...and “one who swears falsely by My name”—a warning against them

Results in the destruction of their dwelling places...“consume it with its timber and stones”

▪ Because of their sins

Verse 5-11 Seventh vision
Bushel basket (Ephah KJV)
Meaning: Wickedness will be dealt with
➤ Wickedness is carried off to another land

Verse 5
“goes forth”...(from the land)

Verse 6
“basket” (margin: a measuring container)...about a bushel...was the largest measure among the Jews

“what is it?”—he knew what an Ephah was but he wanted to know its significance in the vision

the **measure** signifies the measured judgment of God for sin

“this is their resemblance throughout the earth”
(Paraphrase) “it is a bushel basket filled with **sin** prevailing everywhere **throughout the land**”

Verse 7
“lead disc”— a heavy lid on top which is lifted up to look inside

“a woman sitting inside”
A woman usually represents a Church (Rev. 17)

Verse 8
The woman **represents** wickedness
(Proverbs 2: 16)—comparison of a woman to wickedness

A personification of sin and spiritual harlotry of the people

“thrust down into the basket”...and the lid closed=
Being forced down and confined inside (no escape from God’s judgment)

Verse 9
“two women”—consistent with the image set before
Two—because of the weight of the basket...**representing** the full measure of sin and
wickedness

“the wind” does its part to help carry the basket away...in their wings

“wings of a stork”—were typically strong and could fly long distances

Verse 10

Zechariah asked the angel where are they taking the basket?

Verse 11

Shinar= Babylon

1. Wickedness is transported there
2. Captivity of end time Israel to Babylon

A house is built for wickedness there

The idolatry of Babylon must be separated from the worship of God

Babylon is where man first rebelled against God after the flood (Gen. 11)...it is represented throughout scripture for spiritual uncleanness and idolatry

The Babylon of the future (Rev. 18) will display the same spirit of rebellion

The point of the vision is that **wickedness has no place with his people**... it will be purged out and taken to where it belongs—to Babylon (which is always in opposition to God)

Where it will meet with God's judgment
"Babylon the great is fallen" (Rev. 18: 2)