

Zechariah 4:1-7 – A Message for the Leader

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Handfuls, Phillips, Geneva, Delitzsch, Poole, Clarke, Trapp, Henry, INT, Expositor, Gill, Young, Ps 76
Beloved in Jesus Christ: God gave the Jews a great task: To **rebuild** the temple, **restore** worship, and **ready** themselves for the worldwide expansion of the kingdom. As supervisor of this great task, and because circumstances were bleak, **Zerubbabel needed great encouragement**. So **God sent Governor Zerubbabel with a message to encourage him**. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

What He Saw from the Past

What He Heard about the Present

What He Hoped for in the Future

Our goals are: That you will see that God always gives encouragement for your kingdom tasks and that you will receive it.

What he Saw from the Past

1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, **as a man who is wakened out** of his sleep. 2 And he said to me, "**What do you see?**" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of **solid gold 纯金灯台 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."

1. Zechariah was awakened by the Angel in a calm way and shown this vision.

2. The Angel who woke him up was likely Jesus.

3. The fact that Zechariah was woken up in the normal way by Jesus showed that Jesus was not in a state of panic. He was calm and in control. (Isn't it easy to panic if you see someone else panicking? Yet calmness 冷静 begets calmness.)

4. The Lord then questioned Zechariah about what he saw.

5. Zechariah's answered and said that he saw:

a. A golden lampstand. The fact that the lampstand was golden showed its great value. It was a reminder of the menorah 灯台 from the temple -a lamp that looked like a tree, with **three arms on either side of a main stem**. You can read about this in Exodus 25:31-40.

b. The lampstand has 7 lamps fed by 7 pipes.

c. There was 1 bowl on top of the gold lampstand. This was a "gullah."

d. There were 2 olive trees were on either side of the bowl. The olive trees on either side signified the continuous supply of oil so that the lamp would ever keep burning.

6. But why was God giving Zechariah a vision of the past? This was an encouragement and **assurance without words**, like you might hug someone to show you care without even having to say a word. It was an assurance to the Jews that worship would be restored – just like symbols of home keep soldiers fighting on the battle field. God was showing symbols to his soldiers.

7. Lessons:

a. God gave you symbolism for a reason...to focus on who he is and what he has done for you. Use them and let them speak to you. **Baptism and the Lord's Supper are 2 of the best symbols** that you can use. Ignore them at your peril.

b. The symbolism here was the beautiful light that shows God's presence to save and give hope to you. There is danger in darkness... snakes, spiders, and scorpions, but God gives light to expose the dangers and keep his people safe. Not surprising, Jesus called himself the "Light of the World." John 8:12. Isaiah spoke of Jesus as the light.

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

Consider what David wrote when God protected him from Saul and prepared to establish him as king over Israel.

2Samuel 22:29 "For You are my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.

In God's light you see light. You know what to do...how to live...what to believe.

c. What is your response to God's light? "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify the Father in heaven." Your response also encourages Christians to continue to fight for Christ.

Daniel 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament 苍穹, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

What he heard about the present

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.

1. Zechariah then questioned God the Son about what he saw. His question was not what were the functions of the menorah, for surely as a prophet of God he knew that. The Light was a picture of God's presence was to **save, and give hope. It was also to give directions of** how to work for his kingdom. The question was about 2 unique things previously absent.

2. The difference here was 1 bowl on top of the menorah, and the 2 olive trees on either side.

a. The olive trees produced a fragrant continuous, supply of oil. This symbolized God giving the Jews continuous confidence and courage to continue to live for him. And how does God do that? **He does that through his Holy Spirit.**

And isn't he the One the **Lord prayed would come to you** to help you do the work of the kingdom?

John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will **give you another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever — 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you**. 18 **"I will not leave you orphans...**

Furthermore, the work of the Spirit was to give strength and courage to face the deadliest enemies.

Acts 1:8 "But you **shall receive power when the Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

But keep in mind that the Holy Spirit was using the two men – **Zechariah – the prophet, and Joshua – the priest** – to **encourage the work of the Zerubbabel the Governor** (king).

b. What about the bowl above the menorah? The bowl was God's people! (Christians are called vessels – containers.)

Romans 9:23 and that He might make known the **riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy**, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have **this treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

The Holy Spirit would enter God's people and bring light to the world...and build the church. So worship would be **restored worship and the kingdom expanded**. It was not by the might of the people, nor by their power that the kingdom would be built. "**Might**" symbolized a large number. "**Power**" symbolized physical strength. So Zerubbabel was to press on with the work that was set before him. He was not to fear the Medo-Persian kings, for he served the great and powerful God. He was not to be discouraged that there were only a few people who returned to Jerusalem. **God's kingdom is never held prisoner by a lack of servants!** God's kingdom is not at the mercy of people. He can save by many or by few.

3. Mohamed and his forces went with force to conquer Africa, the Spanish went with force to conquer the West Indies to spread Roman Catholicism. Christians go with the Spirit of God. We will win.

Psalms 45:5 Your **arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies**; The peoples fall under You.

2 Corinthians 10:4 For the **weapons of our warfare are not carnal 肉体** but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Revelation 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and **he went out conquering and to conquer**.

4. Lessons:

a. There are too many people who rely upon their articulate speech to build the kingdom of God.

So they have to keep making jokes...using flowery illustrations, etc. to make people come back. When these things go, so do the people.

Others use their resources, as some missionaries have done, to bribe their way into the hearts of the people. So the missionaries 传教士 then have to keep giving stuff. (How you catch them is how you will keep them!)

Some use organizational skills and activities to keep people. So they have to have a steady supply of activities to keep people interested.

Some try to build the kingdom by luring people with bigger numbers. That is why larger churches grow in higher percentages than smaller churches. But as soon as the numbers stagnate 呆滞, people leave.

b. But if you want to have the power to do the work of the Lord and build up his kingdom, you will have to be more and more filled with the Holy Spirit and ask him for help. Only he has the power to truly change the sinner and make him willing to serve the Lord - **through good and bad times**. Only he has the power to breathe life into dead people.

Ezekiel 37:9 Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and **say to the breath**, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "**Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain**, that

they may live." 10 So I prophesied 预言 as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, **and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.**

The word "breath" is the same word for "Spirit."

What he hoped for in the future

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

1. God would remove the greatest obstacles to bring glory to himself and good to his people. No mountain is too high for him to overcome. In fact, God is described as making the mountain into a plain. (Great nations were often called great mountains.) Obadiah accounts for Edom's arrogance in his mountain, but God said he would destroy them so that they could never rebuild. Look at what God promised:

Isaiah 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted And **every mountain and hill brought low**; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

2. What an encouragement this must have been to Zerubbabel who was inhibited by the great task! He need not fear the enemies around, the Medo-Persian king, or the indifference of the Jews. All obstacles God would overcome for them. Temple-rebuilt. Worship-restored. Kingdom work-readied.

Matthew 21:21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also **if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.**

3. The capstones 顶点 of the 2nd temple would be built! And from that temple grace would be proclaimed – proclaimed loudly and clearly.

4. Lessons:

a. Surely you too will have troubles in working to expand the kingdom. Nations will join and persecute 迫害 you. Philosophies will work against you. False religions will come against you. Sometimes it is sickness and depression that become obstacles. Sometimes it will be wicked Ontario and Federal government laws. But God will help you.

b. When you consider God's power, let it spur you to action. One man said it well: God is TNT... not the explosive, but "Tried 'N' True." Corny? Yes. True? Yes.

Conclusion:

Zechariah saw the menorah. What a beautiful message of encouragement he could take to Zerubbabel. **God would guide his people – a light to their path!** The temple would be rebuilt, worship restored, and the people readied to expand the kingdom. God would remove their enemies. The **Holy Spirit would supply everything they needed.** Yes, Jerusalem would become a city on the hill... **a city of lights to all the nations around.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Are you overwhelmed, disappointed, or fearful about the future with your lives and your children's lives...about New Horizon...about the kingdom? Don't be.

2. See what the Lord has promised. He will be that light for you. He will equip you with the strength to do all he calls you to do...to be that godly child, to raise godly children, to be a loving wife, to be a faithful husband, to shepherd the flock with care, to be a caring sibling, to be a persistent evangelist. By his Spirit, the Lord will give you everything you need to work for him. He will remove those who desire to hinder his kingdom work. Yes, he saved you through Jesus, and he will keep you to the end.

3. As you are equipped, do the work he has called you to do. Capture the world for him.

Finally: Without God being your God, you will remain in thick darkness until you see the fires of hell. May God move you today to ask him to shine his truth on you, that you will understand it, believe it, respond in faith, and be saved from all your sins.