

**"The 8 Night Visions"**

**Part 6**

**Zechariah 1:7-6:15**

**Introduction:** So far in our study of Zechariah we have looked at 4 of the 8 night visions given to Zechariah as a means of encouragement for the Jews.

**1. The riders among the myrtle trees.**

God cared about the Jews. They were troubled and, in a valley, while the rest of the world was at ease. God had words of comfort for them.

**2. The four horns and the four carpenters.**

The four Gentile powers that had and would chasten the Jews would be terrorized and, in the end, they would be completely destroyed. By the Stone made without hands.

**3. The man with the measuring line.**

God was going to bless Jerusalem with blessings far too great for the city to contain.

Now we come to the next night vision and this vision also has a special message for the struggling Jews.

**4. The Cleansing of Joshua.**

This was a picture of what the Lord would do in the future when He would restore His people to a priestly nation.

Just as Josua would be placed into the priesthood so there is coming a day when God will restore Israel as a kingdom of priests.

**Exodus 19:6**

*<sup>6</sup> And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

Israel had failed at this but there is a day coming when they will fulfill God's plan for them to be a kingdom of priests.

Today we come to 5<sup>th</sup> night vision.

**"The Vision of the Candlestick"**

**Zechariah 4**

## 1. The Vision

### Notice Zechariah 4:1

Zechariah had to be aroused out of slumber which seems rather odd. You would think that after what he has seen so far that he would be spiritually alert. But is this not typical of man's sin nature?

### Matthew 26:37-41

<sup>37</sup> *And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.*

<sup>38</sup> *Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

<sup>39</sup> *And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

<sup>40</sup> *And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*

<sup>41</sup> *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

### Notice Zechariah 4:2-3

Zechariah saw a menorah which was a candlestick that was made of gold, the candlestick had 7 candles that it supported, and there was a bowl with 49 pipes, 7 to each candle to supply oil and 2 olive trees to keep the bowls full of an endless supply of oil.

In this vision the lampstand represents the temple and the Jewish community, which were to hold the light of Israel's testimony of God up to the rest of the world.

### Application:

There is something withing the candlestick that applies to us as well. The candlestick supported that which bears the light. I believe we can see in this a picture of the church.

### 1 Timothy 3:15

<sup>15</sup> *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Here we see that the church is to be a pillar. A pillar is a support just as the candlestick supported that which bear light. Now let me go a little further.

**Matthew 5:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> *Ye are the light of the world.* *A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

<sup>15</sup> *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

<sup>16</sup> *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Let us now get back to the vision. The idea here in this vision is that the candles needed no human attention because the supply of oil from the trees was endless. In the Bible oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit.

**1 John 2:20, 27**

<sup>20</sup> *But ye have an unction[anointing] from the Holy One,* *and ye know all things.*

<sup>27</sup> *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you,* *and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

**Psalm 133:1-2**

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

<sup>2</sup> *It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;*

Aaron was anointed with oil which pictured the Holy Spirit coming upon him to empower him for the ministry God had for him.

**The meaning for the Jews of Zechariah's day.**

They had returned from the captivity and they built the altar and started the temple and then they met the opposition. They then walked away from the temple and they built their own homes for 15 years. It was then that God moved Haggai and Zechariah to get the people motivated to get back to building. But the project was so large for a small group. They would get tired and weary and they would run out of strength and energy.

But here was a message that God had for them. He would supply the power through the Holy Spirit, and it would be an endless supply of power. They would not be able to exhaust this source.

**Notice Zechariah 4:4-6**

Notice that Zerubbabel is named because he is the one in charge of the building project. God is sending encouragement to Zerubbabel through Zechariah and the message is that God will provide the power and the grace to get the project complete.

**Application:**

This is a message for you and me also. If we try to do the work of the Lord in our strength and our power we will grow weary and we will eventually burnout. God has not called us to serve Him in our own power but instead He has given to us the Holy Spirit to provide and endless supply of His power for us as we serve Him.

Do you have friends or family you long to see saved? Have you ever grown weary in trying to get them repent and to turn to Jesus Christ? If you have you are missing something very important. Notice the Words of Jesus to Peter:

**Matthew 16:18**

<sup>18</sup> *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Jesus said that He would build His church. My responsibility is to share the Gospel and then let God work in the lives of the unsaved. There are people here who I would love to see saved but I cannot save them. My responsibility as the pastor is to give them the Truth and let the Holy Spirit work in their lives. In the same way you cannot save your children or your spouse, that is the Lord's work. Share the Truth and surrender it to Him.

**Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

<sup>43</sup> *And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*

<sup>44</sup> *And all that believed were together, and had all things common;*

<sup>45</sup> *And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.*

<sup>46</sup> *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*

<sup>47</sup> *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

Notice the words of Constable:

*"The work would succeed because of the supernatural grace (help) that the Lord would provide by His Spirit. This is, of course, true of any work that seeks to carry out God's will in the world."*

I want to show you an example of the tragedy of doing the Lord's work in our power.

### **Numbers 13:25, 30-33**

<sup>25</sup> *And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.*

<sup>30</sup> *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

<sup>31</sup> *But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.*

<sup>32</sup> *And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*

<sup>33</sup> *And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

### **Numbers 14:1-**

*And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.*

<sup>2</sup> *And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!*

<sup>3</sup> *And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?*

*<sup>4</sup> And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.*

The people of Israel refused to go into Canaan. God then told them that all their numbered men would die in the wilderness, and they would wander for 40 years and then their children would go in. The people then had a change of mind, but it was too late. God had withdrawn His power, but they made the choice to go anyway.

**Numbers 14:39-45**

*<sup>39</sup> And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.*

*<sup>40</sup> And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned.*

*<sup>41</sup> And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall not prosper.*

*<sup>42</sup> Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.*

*<sup>43</sup> For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.*

*<sup>44</sup> But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.*

*<sup>45</sup> Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.*

This is what happens when we do things for the Lord in our power and strength. Now the sad thing is that today there are all kinds of conferences, books, online programs, and whatever else that churches can plug into to learn to grow their church. I get emails all the time from people that claim to have some kind of program to grow our church. This is all foolishness because if God is not in it then it is all for nothing.

**Notice Zechariah 4:7**

Here is what happens when God's people tap into God's power. Mountains are turned to plains.

Listen to the words of Constable on this verse:

*"A great mountain would become a plain before Zerubbabel. Mountains epitomize large obstacles. They are also symbols of kingdoms but that is not the meaning here. The whole process of temple restoration seemed like a mountainous job to the few exiles who returned from captivity. In addition, there was much opposition to building, and the Israelites themselves proved unwilling to persevere in the task. Nevertheless, God would reduce this mountain to a flat plain by assisting the workers."*

**Notice Zechariah 4:7 again.**

When the temple would be completed the people would shout that it was grace that allowed it to be finished.

**Conclusion/Application:**

What is the mountain before you today? Grace will get you through and over the mountain.

**2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

<sup>8</sup> *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

<sup>9</sup> *And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee**: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*