

"The 8 Night Visions"

Part 7

Zechariah 1:7-6:15

Introduction: Last week in our study of Zechariah we started into chapter 4 where we were looking at the 5th night vision given to Zechariah.

"The Vision of the Candlestick"

Zechariah 4

Each of the visions were given to be an encouragement to the Jews and to get them motivated to build the temple. The Messiah was coming, and He would need a temple to come to, so the Jews needed to get busy. This 5th vision would prove to be very encouraging to the Jews.

Notice Zechariah 4:1-3

In this night vision Zechariah saw a candlestick with a bowl over the top and an endless supply of oil to keep the candles burning. The oil in the Bible is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and that is exactly the meaning of the vision.

Notice Zechariah 4:4-6

Here was the message for the Jews. They had returned from the captivity to rebuild the temple. They started and then they were met with opposition, and they quit. The foundation had set idle and untouched for 15 years and now it was time to get to work. But the project was large, and the people were few. Zerubbabel was the leader of the building project and he had to work with some people who were not skilled stone masons. Zerubbabel faced a great obstacle in getting the temple built. When they started there would have been great excitement but now 15 years later the excitement was gone.

But this vision would have given Zerubbabel new excitement because this vision meant that God would supply the power through the Holy Spirit and the power supply was unlimited. The temple would be built not by Zerubbabel's power or might, but it would be built by God's power and might.

Application:

Verse 6 is one of the most important verses for our lives today. As believers we can grow rather weary because we are trusting in our own power and might to accomplish things for God. Nothing done for God in our power and might will ever accomplish anything. Our service must be done in the power and the might of our God.

1 Corinthians 3:5-6

⁵ *Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?*

⁶ *I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*

It is God who brings about the results because it is His power alone that can do the work.

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ *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.*

We need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives if we desire to see spiritual results.

This means we must walk in fellowship with God. We must be careful not to hinder the Holy Spirit. This is done when there is sin in the believer's life. If there is sin in our lives, then we cannot expect the Holy Spirit to work His power through us.

Let us notice what the Bible says concerning Samson.

Judges 16:16-20

¹⁶ *And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;*

¹⁷ *That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.*

¹⁸ *And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.*

¹⁹ *And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.*

²⁰ *And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.*

Notice Zechariah 4:7

The temple project was a mountain before Zerubbabel but in God's power it would be turned to a plain. When the temple was finished the people would shout of the grace of God that enabled it to be finished.

Application:

When we are operating in the power of God mountains can be turned into plains. They may not be removed but there is always enough grace to face them and to get over them.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

⁷ *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.*

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

⁹ *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.*

Notice Zechariah 4:8-9a

Verse 9 here is very important. It tells us that Zerubbabel built the foundation of the temple, and he would also finish the project. He built the foundation, and he would also place the capstone.

Application:

There are a couple of lessons here for us.

1. **What God starts He will finish.**

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

If you belong to God, He will never give up on you. He will continue to work in your life making you more like Jesus Christ. He will chip away to rid us of that which should not be there. He will place us in the quarries of life, and He will be sure there are stone cutters that will do His work. This is evidence that it is impossible to lose our salvation. If we

could somehow lose our salvation then it could be said that God did not finish what He had started.

2. What we start we are expected to see it through completion.

This is something that truly needs to be understood. God wants us to be finishers not quitters. Many will sign up to serve but will not stay committed. They start something and then when something else comes up they walk away.

Luke 14:26-27, 33

²⁶ *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

²⁷ *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

³³ *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

This is what our Lord expects, full commitment.

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

Notice Zechariah 4:9 again.

Zerubbabel's placement of the capstone would complete the temple project, but it would also do something else. It would prove that the words of Zechariah were truly the Word of the Lord. It would show Zechariah to be a true prophet.

Let us put ourselves back at the temple project. There has been opposition and discouragement and now this man Zechariah begins to speak about all these visions which are visions of encouragement.

- He is speaking of God judging Judah's judges.
- He speaks of Jerusalem not being large enough to hold all the blessings.
- He speaks of the Messiah coming to the temple they will build.
- He speaks of the assured completion of this massive project.

But how do we know his words are true? How would we know he was not some false prophet leading us down a path of his own desire?

Deuteronomy 18:19-22

¹⁹ *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.*

²⁰ *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

²¹ **And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?**

²² **When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.**

The Jews would know that Zechariah's Words were from the Lord when Zerubbabel placed the capstone and finished the temple.

Notice Zechariah 4:10a

This is an important question. Who hath despised the day of small things? Let me explain why this question is asked. There was yet something else that brought discouragement to the Jews who were building the temple. Let us notice what is said after the foundation was built in Ezra's day.

Ezra 3:10-13

¹⁰ *And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.*

¹¹ *And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.*

¹² **But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:**

¹³ *So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.*

When the foundation was built some of the people wept because this temple was not as large as Solomon's. Some of the people possibly did not want to work on the temple because it was not what it used to be.

Notice Zechariah 4:10 again.

They might be discouraged at the size of the temple, but God would rejoice when He saw the building being built.

Application:

We are a people today that views the importance of things according to the size and appearance.

Listen to the words of J. Vernon McGee:

"For who hath despised the day of small things?' I can tell you who has—we despise the day of small things. We Americans are impressed with the big and brassy. We like our Christian work to be a success story. And we measure success by the size of the building and the crowds that come to it. Well, I am becoming more and more convinced that the Lord is working in quiet ways and in quiet places today."

Listen to the words of Wiersbe:

"Bible history is the record of God using small things. When God wanted to set the plan of salvation in motion, He started with a little baby named Isaac. When He wanted to overthrow Egypt and set His people free, He used a baby's tears. He used a shepherd boy and a sling to defeat a giant and a little lad's lunch to feed a multitude. He delivered the Apostle Paul from death by using a basket and a rope. Never despise the day of small things, for God is glorified in small things and uses them to accomplish great things."

Because this is the mentality of most Americans the small things can be seen as not very important. But every work done for the Lord is important. Often positions in the church are seen as "SMALL THINGS" and are viewed as not as important as "BIGGER THINGS." But every spiritual gift and every opportunity to serve is important. God is pleased when we take our responsibilities serious and give ourselves to service.

1 Corinthians 12:21-23

²¹ *And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.*

²² *Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:*

²³ *And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.*

Notice Zechariah 4:11-14

The "two anointed ones" means the "two sons of oil". Not only do the trees represent the abundant supply of oil for the lamps but they also represent Zerubbabel and Joshua. These two men would accomplish great things for the Lord through the power of the Spirit. Let me show you something else that is interesting.

Revelation 11:3-4, 7-10

³ *And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

⁴ *These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*

⁷ *And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*

⁸ *And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*

⁹ *And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.*

¹⁰ *And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.*

Conclusion: This vision shows that God will accomplish that which seems impossible and that is the completion of the temple.