

Minor Prophets
Zechariah
Lesson 4

Text: Zechariah 4:1-14

Intro: Tonight we are going to cover chapter 4 and the vision of the candlestick.

I. The Candlestick, and the Olive Trees, 4:1-14

A. The Vision, Vs.1-5

i. Man at Best is in a Sleep-Like-Condition,

- a) **Vs.1** tells us the angel spoke with him (Zechariah) again,
- and they walked, but like a man that has been just woke up,
 - In the service, there was a one minuet opportunity to speak your peace, for one minuet, they “said” they wouldn't hold it against you.
 - How many of us know what it is like to be in that area between being fully awake, and sound asleep.
 - This is the way man is at best when understanding the mind and will of God.
 - It takes the presence of God to reveal or enlighten us to the spiritual truths.
 - See **I Corinthians 2:1-16**
 - Only God can reveal Spiritual Truths, Man is a conduit that the Spirit of God often flows through.

ii. What He Saw,

- a) A Candlestick of Gold,
- this candlestick would be similar to what we see in the tabernacle, but there are some big differences as well.
 - First, a candlestick, is not what we would consider a candlestick today.
 - They were not simply a support of some type to hold a wick covered with wax.
 - The candlesticks mentioned in the bible were “oil lamps” and not like some that we may remember.
 - They were a hollow vessel, that could be filled with oil, and the oil would be either wicked up, or allowed to flow down into a pan to burn.
 - So on this particular candlestick there were the bowls on top, this would hold the oil, the lamps would be the pan where the fire would burn, and the pipes were the tubes to carry the oil from the bowl to the lamp (pan)
 - I said there would be some similarities:
 - they were both made of Gold,
 - **Exodus 25** tells us some of the decorative features of the candlestick,
 - that it was beaten work, made with bowls that looked like almonds, it was to have flowers on it.
 - The purpose of the candlestick was simple, it was used to bring light to a dark place.
 - This is essentially the call of the Israelite, it is also the Call of the New Testament Church, as well as the individual believer.

- **Matthew 5:14&15** “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵Neither 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.”
- Also See **Revelation 1:20 & 2:5**
- There are differences as well,
 - We cannot speak to the decorative state of the candlestick of Zechariah,
 - but the description does make it clear that this is not just simply the candlestick in the temple.
 - One thing some commentators will say is the number of the lamps and pipes are somewhat ambiguous, is that seven bowls total, or seven bowls for each column, also is that seven pipes total, or seven to each bowl?
 - One commentator Dr. Constable, indicated that there were 49 pipes creating a spaghetti like construction of the lamp, but he concluded that is was to indicate the ample supply of the Lord.
- So the candlestick had- Gold, With a Bowl on top, Seven Lamps, Seven Pipes,
 - but the major difference between the candlestick in the temple and the one here is the Olive trees,
- b) Two Olive Trees,
 - the olive trees were the source of oil,
 - this is indicating that God would be the one responsible for filling the oil, not the priest of the temple,
 - the priest had to keep the oil filled in order to keep light.
 - A couple of interesting things about that is:
 - one, the priestly tribe would take turns in timing the lamps, Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist worked in the temple, and it was when he was preparing the table of incense that the Lord gave him word of his child.
 - So the priest would take turns timing the lamps.
 - The second is “Hanukkah” the festival of lights,
 - according to Jewish tradition, after the Grecian empire, the Jews were able to continue with temple worship. But on the resumption of the worship they only found one curse of olive oil. Enough for one day.
 - The ritual for preparing the oil was a ritual that took several days.
 - But, as the legion goes, they started the lamps, and for 8 days they oil burned, until they were able to bring in the fresh oil, the oil of the one curse lasted. And that is what the Jewish people celebrate on Hanukkah.

B. The Words of Encouragement, Vs.6-10

i. The Two Oracles of the Angel, Vs.6-10

a) The first, Vs.6&7

- in **chapter 3** there was encouragement for Joshua, now there is encouragement for Zerubbabel. The religious and the political leaders of Israel.
- The message to Joshua was God is the one who will do the cleaning,

- the message to Zerubbabel is God is the one who will supply the power.
 - This would be a great message for any leader to get, to know that the burden of operation is not on you alone, but on the power, and resources of God.
 - Not by might, nor by power, but by “MY SPIRIT” saith the Lord.
 - I like that the word also emphasizes that it is the Lord of Host,
 - indicating there is an army there to serve God.
 - The Mountain becomes a plain,
 - the task ahead of Zerubbabel was a monumental task, like a mountain before him. But the promise of God was, it will become like a plain.
 - What would you rather cross, a mountain or a plain?
 - The promise of the “Headstone” here is not like a tombstone,
 - but the top stone of the walls. And there will be rejoicing when it is done.
- b) The second oracle, **Vs.8-10**
- the rebuilding of the wall took about 19 years,
 - and the promise of God was, you have started it, and you will finish it,
 - **Philippians 1:6** “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:”
- c) Don't despise small things,
- some things can look small at first,
 - imagine 19 years earlier when the first stones were laid on the foundation, how small it looked, but now, as they are being completed, you realize how necessary they are.
 - The same is true in our lives, because of some of the small seemingly insignificant things, it prepares us for future work.
 - This is the message of **James 1:2-4**, Temptations=Trying faith=Patience = maturity= wanting nothing,
 - **Romans 5:3-5** “And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulationn worketh patience;⁴And patience, experience; and experience, hope:⁵And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. ”
 - also according to **II Corinthians 1** we are able to comfort others with what we have received form God.
 - We should never take the small things lightly.
 - **Ezra 3:12 & Haggai 2:3** tells how the older generation looked at the foundation as a small thing in comparison to what they had seen.
 - How many small things has God used to show His power?
 - A baby named Moses when he wanted to deliver Israel form Egypt?
 - A rod in the hand of Moses
 - A small shepherd and a sling to kill a giant
 - a young lad and a few pieces of bread and fish to feed the multitude
 - what about in our lives?
 - How a small seed can grow to such a giant tree?

C. The Interpretation, Vs11-14

i. Ask if we do not understand,

- a) even though the angel has already given some of the meaning, Zechariah had questions,
 - **James 1:5** tells us that if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask, and God will give it to us.
 - We should desire to know, and not just partially,
 - you ever hear the expression a little knowledge is a dangerous thing? We should not be content with just a little understanding, we should desire to know the full counsel of God.
- b) Be specific in our questions:
 - Zechariah did not say, reveal more to me, He ask a direct question.
 - Sometimes I think we want to be vague in our request because we doubt God can or will answer in a precise way.
 - We pray that way, but the bible tells us to let our request be known (**Philippians 4:6**),
 - Let us get in the practice to pray specifically. And then let us give God the glory.
 - Now there are times we do not know how to pray, but this is not always the case. And as we pray, if we feel the Lord say no, or not this, then let us be specific in other ways.

ii. The Two Branches,

- a) the two anointed ones:
 - literally it translates to “Sons of Oil”
 - who do you think these are?
 - Here it is referring to Joshua and Zerubbabel,
- b) let us make no mistake about it:
 - Leaders, both political and religious are anointed of God for the position.
 - Wither we like them or not, wither they are good or not, and wither we think they are worthy or not.
 - **Romans 13:1&2** “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.²Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”
 - **I Peter 2:13-15 & 18** “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;¹⁴Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.¹⁵For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:... Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. “
 - the word forward here fits a lot of our political leaders today:
 - warped, perverse, crooked,
 - **Hebrews 13:17** “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.”

- even David when he had the opportunity to kill Saul, wouldn't take it, and when Saul did die, the man that came back and told David that he had killed him, David said “And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD’S anointed?” **II Samuel 1:14**

- David had this man killed.

c) So Joshua and Zerubbabel were anointed of God,

- but God would flow through them in order to accomplish His will.
 - The oil is the Spirit of God,
- Some see these two as a picture of the two witnesses of revelation.
 - **Revelation 11.**
- But they stand also as a picture of Messiah,
 - that one day these two would be combined in one to accomplish the will of God.
 - That in the person of Jesus Christ we have the combined Political (King) and the Religious (Priest) together in one.
 - In fact all three here are represented the King Priest and Prophet,