

Zechariah – the name means Jah has remembered

*Zec 4:2-3 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.*

Zechariah's awakening is as in the resurrection and that is the time that we are considering. What the prophet saw is for our learning and more, as with the Book of Revelation Rev 1:3 *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand* and it is wonderful that our eyes are opened to these things because there have been great periods in history when no one had access to the Bible and in their own language, at least outside Israel. But unto whom more is given more is required.

The vision of the candlestick initially takes us back to Israel, to the tabernacle and their journey to the Promised Land. The Hebrew word for "candlestick" is menorah and, like the original, it is all of pure gold, that has been tried in the fire. The light of it in the Tabernacle showed the twelve loaves, the redeemed. There too was darkness as with the world at the beginning. The Israel of God are to bring pure olive oil beaten for the light to provide the light

In this vision we are shown two olive trees and seven pipes going from these to a bowl on the top of it. It would seem then that these two olive trees, one on the right and the other on the left, supply the oil simultaneously to the candlestick. Why two olive trees? In Hos. 14 v 6 we are shown how the nation of Israel were to be healed of their backsliding. *His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.* In Romans 11 we learn that the gentiles, in receiving the Gospel, are grafted into the original olive tree i.e. Israel, and in v 17 the Gentiles are referred to as a wild olive. In this way we have two olive trees and in the vision they are distinct. One on the left, the other on the right

In answer to the prophet's question (v4) the angel gives Yahweh's answer. Zerubbabel, having laid the foundation the rest will be achieved by The Spirit and

not earthly power. Zerubbabel means *one born in Babylon* (captivity). We know that at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah fierce opposition arose to the building and this must have seemed like a mountain though they were convinced it was a good work. This is the attitude that must prevail among God's people

*Psa 27:12-14 Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD. And*

*Psa 37:33-34 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.*

In connection with the last Psalm we know the Lord Jesus suffered to the end, seemingly forsaken.

*Heb 12:3-7 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

But in this study we are looking to the establishment of the Kingdom on earth and there will great opposition among the nations till all are subdued; Jesus acknowledged as King and High Priest and the millennium reign begins

*Zec 4:9-10 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.*

In the days of Ezra 3v12 there were some who had seen the temple in its glory and, in seeing it rebuilt, rejoiced whilst others they wept. It is also the day of small things for us, a day of trial and testing. *Psa 30:4-5 Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth*

*but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*

*Zec 4:14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.*

*2 Sa 23:1-5 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow*

If we have this mind and overcome we are assured to be with king David in the kingdom and to be part of the olive tree giving the light of God in all the world.

*And now Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

The importance of light

*Gen 1:1-4 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

This was before the sun was in its place. Thus the earth was illumined by God's Spirit.

*1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* Thus in the next few verses we are shown that we must walk in the light to have fellowship with Him and His. Darkness and light cannot exist together. In light nothing can be hidden

Now we must be tried as gold to be fit to be part of the candlestick in the Kingdom

Love to all in Christ and who seek His face

Brother Ken