

The Golden Candlestick / Lampstand/ Menorah**8 Visions**

It was mentioned in the introduction that there were seven visions in the book of Zechariah. However a reminder of the visions is outlined below. It is often the case that sevens are used, to show the completion of God's purpose in his 7000 year plan, but the number 8 reminds us of God's continued purpose even beyond what He has revealed.

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| 1. | The Man among the Myrtles | chapter 1:7-17 |
| 2. | Four Carpenters and Four Horns | chapter 1:18-21 |
| 3. | Man with a measuring Line | chapter 2 |
| 4. | A change of clothes for Joshua | chapter 3 |
| 5. | Lampstand and two olive trees | chapter 4 |
| 6. | The flying scroll | chapter 5: 1-4 |
| 7. | Woman in the basket | chapter 5:5-11 |
| 8. | Four chariots two mountains | chapter 6:1 -8 |

Woken up

And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, as Brother Russel reminded us, this is an important aspect, showing in symbol a representation of the

resurrection, and giving Zechariah and the readers of his prophecy a large hint, that the message of the vision relates to events which would occur after the resurrection, and at the time of the establishments of the Kingdom of God.

What do you see?

After being woken up, Zechariah was asked (verse2) *What seest thou?* What do you see? This was a common way in which God deliberately involved the prophets in the vision itself. What do YOU see? For example Jeremiah was asked this about a boiling cauldron, a rod of an almond tree, good and evil figs, Amos was asked about a plumb-line, and a basket of summer fruit, Zechariah about this lampstand, and in chapter 5 a flying roll. In all cases, mundane objects – but with a twist! What do YOU see is the question, - as we see world events taking place – do we see a message from God that motivates us, and stirs our heart? Later we can see it was important to Zechariah, that he really understood this vision, - he wanted to SEE! In verse 4 he asks – What are these my Lord? He was asking for assistance to SEE. Bible Study is the key to improving the character to become more like Jesus. Reading the Bible occasionally does not do the job. Reading every day does not either, what is really important is understanding, and thinking and mediating about the Word. What do we see? Sometimes understanding a vision is not always easy, those who are prayerful, and ask for help in understanding, wisdom is given, in the opening up of scripture, and seeing how it is relevant for us in our everyday lives. The whole process of getting oil for a light is long winded, and complicated. We cannot just obtain the knowledge and understanding straight away. What do you see? Understanding and wisdom comes though hard work. To create light, olives had to be picked off a tree that had been well looked after. The olives have to be transported to be sorted and graded, then washed, then poured into a press. The press applied though much effort, not once but many times, to finally obtain the virgin oil, pure olive oil that will burn without creating any smoke. A long process. So it is with these visions. To obtain the

output of wisdom, hard work, is required. Israel were well accustomed to this, as they supplied a tithe of their olive oil to the priests, who used it in the tabernacle, to create light from the beautiful seven branched golden lampstand to create light, so that the high priest could minister to the spiritual needs of the nation. What do you see? What we see is affected by how much light is on the subject, and how much effort is put in, and asking God for His help – What are these my Lord.

The lampstand Extraordinaire

As has been explained already, Zechariah was shown an unusual contraption. A seven branched lampstand connected by pipes to a central bowl (see above picture). The central reservoir was itself connected by two long golden pipes to two olive trees, one either side of the lampstand. Such an object was amazing – Bro Russel gave it a good description, - a self-contained light machine! What was striking was that the two golden pipes and the central bowl in the middle did the job of thousands of farmers, olive sorters, olive presses, oil receptacles, and so on. The whole complicated and messy process was completely gone. Here instead was a direct connection between the trees, and the lampstand, all made possible by the marvellous golden pipes and bowl. It was quite something!

Zechariah wanted to see! So he asked (v12) *What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?* The angel implied, that he should really know this, but he answered *These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.*

What Zechariah was being shown was a new process. A complete contrast and a complete change from all that he had experienced. Upon consideration he would have thought about the imperfection of the human efforts to produce light. Man's efforts are long winded, complicated, messy, and finally the oil produced is impure belching out soot laden smoke. We are referring of course to the work of false religion. We recall that at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, when

Zechariah carried out his ministry, many in the priesthood had lost their genealogy, or had not purified themselves for the work of the priesthood, as being in captivity for so long, had introduced corruption. Even Tobiah the arch enemy was given lodgings in the house of God itself! The inadequacy of the law of Moses, was because of human involvement – or lack of – laziness, indolence and carelessness – so that by the time of the Anointed One (Jesus Christ,) the priests and lawyers – who should have known better, were the ones who were responsible for the extinction of the Light in the death of Jesus Christ. Since then the light being produced by the churches at large has created more smoke and gloom, so messy and complicated and longwinded is their view of the Word of God, that their heyday created the Dark Ages and the so called Enlightenment demonstrated the Words of Jesus: Matthew 6:23 *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!* Yet in this vision, Zechariah was being shown a time when the whole process which involved the input of man, would be bypassed altogether. Instead a system would be set up, whereby the fuel for the lamp would come direct from a select source, via trusted and pure conduits, to the single vessel, which would in turn dispense to the burners. Brother Russel has reminded of what these steps involve. The two trees representing the carefully tended trees pruned by the one husbandman, Jewish stock: Hosea 14: 5 -6: *I will be as the dew unto Israel: His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree...* and Gentile: Romans 11: 17 *you, being a wild olive tree, were graft in among them, and with them partake of the root and fatness of the olive tree;* These two trees signify the two selected sources of oil. They are those who have been called out of the world, to be part of the trees of life, who in their life have been accustomed to allowing their fruit their glory and pride to be squashed, and hearts of stone removed. Though two trees from different backgrounds, these are united as one, though the golden pipes, to the one bowl upon the top of the lampstand. These trees do the work themselves, as in their lives they were trained by the Spirit,

by the Word, to allow the flesh to be crushed, and through experience provide useful material, to be transported by golden conduits, secure, faithful vessel of honour. All is held, reserved, until that great day, when Jesus Christ will be revealed to the world, and every eye shall see him. Then Jesus the great dispenser of light, will use the golden characters of his immortal saints to provide a non-stop supply of the pure light of the gospel, typified by the golden seven branched lampstand. All connected together, with no chance of human interference again.

Day of small things

While Zechariah was transported to the golden age of light in the Kingdom of God in vision, his feet were planted in reality. The house of God itself had the foundation laid. The old folk in the crowds watching could recall the temple of Solomon which once stood there, and they wept when they saw this much smaller version being built. (Ezra 3:12) They were disappointed. But how disappointed God would have felt, when this His people, were so easily discouraged by the enemies of the nation, and they laid off building the house altogether!! Truly it was *a day of small things*. (see verse 10) ...(Yes, we know all about this...) To men like Ezra, Nehemiah, Zechariah, Haggai and Zerubabel, how could they possibly get from where they were, a tiny rump state who couldn't even manage to get this piddly little building built past the first row of stones, how could they get from this, to that glorious Kingdom that God had promised them, - where was the connection? Well, like the pipes that connected the lampstand to the trees, the connection would be manged by God, quite alright, especially without the interference of man! The method was explained!

*Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit**, saith the Lord of hosts. (See verse 6)*

God would do it.

The angel referred Zechariah to the kingdom of the day - massive looming empire— Persia. Brother Russel gave us some useful information here, explaining the context. Zechariah was shown how such a monstrous edifice like Persia would like all the kingdoms of men become flattened – *before Zerubbabel* . This man who lived at the time of Zechariah was the governor of Jerusalem, and was a descendant of David, and was in the line of Jesus Christ. (Matt 1:12,16) Haggai in 2:20-23 makes it clear that this man was a representation of the Lord Jesus. *7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.* This prophecy came true. Under Zerubbabel, the temple in Jerusalem was completed, but the angel was not talking about that. He was talking about the spiritual temple. Through Zerubbabel that temple would come about, because Christ Jesus was both the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11) and the head of the corner(1 Peter 2:7)

Brother Terry