

The Candlestick Zechariah Chapter 4

1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep,

Here is a picture of; the Holy Spirit entering the dead and alienated sinner, and awakening them to the newness of life; a picture of the dead sinner being born again, by the power of God.

2 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: 3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. 4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?

Zechariah answers the angel, and then asks for an explanation of what he has seen. He would have been familiar with the setup of the "*holiest of holy place*" in the tabernacle, and the temple, and the articles of furniture therein. What he was seeing in this vision was the addition of the two olive trees on the left and right sides of the candlestick. Thus, he needed explanation of what he was seeing.

As we consider this, in the light of New Testament Scripture, we see several things that help us understand the application to us today. My first thoughts are of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the light produced thereby. The candlestick itself, with its seven lamps, is a picture of the completeness of the salvation of God for his people throughout all time.

We understand; the vail of the temple being rent in twain, when Christ died on the cross, was the revelation of the salvation produced by the one true sacrifice for sins, the blood of Christ. It is the revelation, that Christ was indeed the Messiah and the Son of the Living God.

For us, today, being born again and given eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand; we can see that Christ is the candlestick that stands in the middle of the Old and New Testament scriptures. The Old Testament was a testimony of the truth, that Christ would come and save his people from their sins. Those under the sacrificial law, were like they had their sins charged to a credit card, and with the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ; they all received a paid in full receipt for their sins. For all God's people who are after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, the fulfillment of the sacrificial law; they are like someone who has a prepaid credit card, for Christ has already provided the sacrifice for their sins, all that is needed to redeem their sin debt in eternal salvation. Remember, Eternal redemption for sins does not remove you from the consequence of sin. If you sin, you will suffer the consequences here in time. This does not change your eternal redemption, but is a reminder that God cannot behold sin with the least degree of allowance.

5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 6 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. 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. 8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 9 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. 10 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.

Zerubbabel was in the process of rebuilding the temple of God after the destruction of the original temple constructed under King Solomon. This message was to strengthen him, so that he would not slack in completing the work God had set for him to accomplish. Zerubbabel needed some

encouragement; those who had seen the first temple, considered the temple Zerubbabel was building as noting in comparison to the first, and were voicing their dismay and disdain for the ongoing work.

Zechariah is foretelling something to be accomplished in the future. It is a picture of the coming age of Salvation By Grace. This is established by the word of the angel when he said "**and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.**" It is the prophetic picture of the revelations of the age of salvation by Grace, and the Gospel of Christ that were forthcoming. Christ Jesus is the "**cornerstone which the builders rejected**" and the revelation of both the Old and New Testaments, for us today.

Did you notice what he angel said? "**Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**" This is indicative, to us, that all the work of eternal salvation was accomplished by Christ. We cannot work enough to gain eternal salvation. Actually, the reverse is true: We do good works, because we have been born again, and we are empowered to do so by the Holy Spirit. We are reminded; Jesus said before he ascended back to heaven, from whence he came, that He would send the Holy Spirit to take his place. This is the "**but by my spirit**" here spoken of.

11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? 12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? 13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

The two olive trees were very special in their work and image. It is a picture for us, here in time on earth, of the Gospel of Christ being displayed in the Old and New Testaments of scripture. The bible in its two parts is emblematic of the witness of God, "**the two anointed ones that stand by the Lord.**" Throughout time, the Old and New Testaments are a witness to us of the glory, power, majesty, of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

Did you notice; the two olive trees had pipes, through which they supplied a continuous supply of oil to the seven lamps? This demonstrates to us; that the power of the source of the Light of the Gospel of Christ Jesus is endless.

For God's people; it is a picture of Christ incarnate as seen in scripture in: **Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.** and as seen in: **Joh 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**

We know that Christ has ascended back to the eternal heaven, having gone to prepare a place for us, so where does that leave us? Christ told us, before he ascended back to the eternal heaven, in several texts as follow:

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

From all these texts we see; Jesus has told us what will happen under the reign of Salvation by Grace.

- The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, will abide with you forever

- The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, will teach you all things
- The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, will bring to remembrance all things I have said unto you
- The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, will testify of me

Thus we see clearly, because we have the steady supply of the knowledge, of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Old and New Testaments, that the source of our light, which enables us to have eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that understand is the golden Candlestick. The Holy Spirit is; the representative, to us in time, of the Candlestick sent in the stead of Christ. Though we have not Christ incarnate present with us, we have his embodiment in the Holy Spirit, which dwells in all of God's people.

What did Jesus tell us before he left the world?

Mt 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

You see; the light of Christ is shining continually, in the world today, in and through God's people. Just as God led Israel, with a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, throughout their whole wilderness journey; we have the light of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The bible is a candlestick for us today, from which we draw knowledge and understanding of the source of the "***Light of Life***". Therein, we see the picture, of the Gospel of Christ Jesus preached from both the Old and New Testaments of scripture. We also see that we, God's nation of "saved by grace" people, are like little candlesticks in the world of the darkness of sin. We are continuous supplied with the light of Christ in us, and shining out from us, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is Christ in us. "***Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.***" Our every action, word, and deed, should cause; the shining of Christ in us to be manifested to those around us; that it might accomplish the work, and the duty, given by God to us, seen in: ***Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*** This gives us the picture of sowing seed. How? You sow one seed to get more seeds. You do good works so others may glorify God also.

In this marvelous age of Salvation by Grace, We get from the Old Testament scriptures the revelations of the testimony of the coming of Christ. From the New Testament scriptures; we get the picture of the revelation that Christ did come incarnate, and He did do the Father's will completely. From both the Old and New Testament scriptures; we get the prophetic picture of the time to come, when all God's people will be carried, by the power of Christ, into the eternal world, the place He has gone to prepare for us.

Aren't you glad; the veil of the temple was rent in twain, that we might look into the "***holiest of holy***" place, and therein see our Candlestick burning brightly? With the veil rent; we can see the Ark of the Covenant; wherein are the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments bring us to realize the penalty of sin is eternal death, which is passed upon all, except the sacrifice of Jesus's blood be made on one's behalf.

We remember also; the ark and the Ten Commandments were covered by the mercy seat, which is the picture of the blood of Christ removing us from under the penalty of death for sin. We remember; the mercy seat was overshadowed by the cherubim with the spread wings, who were looking toward the mercy seat; a picture of how God's marvelous protecting hand is over all his people. We remember; the voice of God would speak to God's people from the space between the mercy seat and the overshadowing cherubim, a picture of the revealed Christ being revealed to us through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ.

We remember that in, the holiest of holy place, was the golden altar of incense, upon which only the High Priest offered incense. We see in this altar and the offering thereon; is representative, of the prayers of God's people being made unto Christ, and Christ presenting our petitions unto God the Father. Remember, Jesus instructed us to pray in his name to God the Father, which is the picture of the altar of incense and the High Priest offering thereon.

Praise the Lord that we, like Zechariah have been awakened from sleep. Being awakened; we have the "**light of life**" in us today. Praise the Lord; the source of the light of God's people has a continuous supply, from the throne of God, to us in time, on earth, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

In the eternal perspective; we see the Candlestick, our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, in His full orb'd glory, as seen in scripture in: ***Re 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*** What a day that will be! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

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