

ZECHARIAH

Text: Zechariah 4:1-10

Subject: "The Believer's Enablement"

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts" (4:6)

Question: What is the key to effectiveness in ministry?

Question: What is Pentecost and the Spirit filled life?

Question: How does God enable us to do His will?

Question: Why is it imperative to be filled with "Fresh oil"?

Question: How can I be restored and renewed by the Spirit's power?

Introduction

1. Zechariah has been called to minister with Haggai.
2. Zechariah began his prophetic ministry months after Haggai did in 520 B.C.
3. Zechariah was called to write to three parties:
 - #1. The Jews who returned from exile. (1:3)
 - #2. To Joshua the high priest. (3:8)
 - #3. To Zerubbabel the governor. (4:6)

The Purpose Of Zechariah Was Two-Fold:

- #1. To encourage the Jewish remnant to finish rebuilding the temple now!
- #2. To prophesy Israel's glorious future under the coming Messiah! (Zechariah's eight visions end in triumph. "And the Lord shall be king over all the earth" (14:9)

Zechariah Needs Help

Fact: It's now 520 B.C. in the 2nd year of King Darius.

Fact: 42,360 Jews had come home in 536 B.C.

Fact: These Jews were now laboring under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua.

Fact: And Zechariah's ministry was sorely needed:

Why The Need For Encouragement?

- #1. Work on the temple had started, but opposition caused the postponement of its completion.
- #2. The Jews were discouraged because the house of God was not what it used to be. (Haggai 2:3)
- #3. There were serious crop failures, business depression, the budget was low and morale was even lower.
- #4. The Jews were wondering, "Will the job ever be completed?"

And God Gives A Timely Word

How will Zechariah overcome his frustrations?

How will Zechariah fulfill his call?

How will the Jews complete the temple?

How will you and I bear fruit for eternity?

(Only One Way) "Not By Might, Nor By Power, But By My Spirit Saith The Lord Of Hosts" (4:6)

Fact: What God **promised** Zechariah, is for all!

Fact: What God **provided** for Zechariah, is for all!

Fact: What God **planned** for Zechariah, is for all!

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(4 Provisions Born Out Of Pentecost)

I. God “Renews” Zechariah’s (and your) Strength (4:2-6)

“Behold I see 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 of thereof. And two olive trees by it... not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the lord of hosts”. (vs. 2,3 & 6)

Fact: Zechariah wonders, “How will it all get done?”

Fact: Zechariah gets his answer from the Lord.

The Vision Of The Candlestick

- (Verse 2)
- A. Zechariah sees the candlestick of gold.
 - B. On top of the candlestick is a bowl.
 - C. The candlestick has 7 lamps to burn.
 - D. Each lamp has a pipe to supply the oil to the lamps.

- (Verse 3)
- A. Beside the lamp-stand are two olive trees.
 - B. These olive trees discharge the oil from their branches into the conduits (pipes) which led to the central reservoir (the bowl).
 - C. The supply of the olive oil came from a source outside of the candlestick. (The olive trees)
 - D. The supply of oil was the only source of light for the candlestick.

Zechariah Asks: “What does this illustration (vision) mean? (v. 4)

God Answers: “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord” (v. 6)

Question: What does the oil, the trees, the lamp and the pipes have to do with the Lord, the Holy Spirit and you and I?

Remember:

- ◆ Zechariah has a difficult task ahead of him.
- ◆ Zechariah is not sure if he can see it through.
- ◆ Zechariah is weak in himself and only human.

So God Comes On The Scene (And says:)

“Zechariah, it will happen before you”.

“The task of rebuilding will come to completion”.

“What looks impossible will be seen before your eyes”.

But... “It won’t happen in your own energy”.

“It won’t be by your human ability”.

“It won’t take place through human effort alone”.

“Not By Might Nor By Power: (Means:)

“You can’t make it happen Zechariah”.

“You can’t stand on your own Zechariah”.

“You can’t fulfill the call by yourself”.

“But By My Spirit Saith The Lord” (Means:)

(Never forget this)

- #1. As the lamps are not supplied by human hands (but by the life of the olive tree),
- #2. So your life and work and energy and source is not supplied from human hands,
- #3. But by the life of the Holy Spirit's Power from on high.

Fact: The same Spirit that empowered the disciples at Pentecost...

- A. Is the same Spirit that empowers us!
- B. Is the same Spirit that enables us!
- C. Is the same Spirit that endues us!
- D. Is the same Spirit that equips us!

II. **God "Removes" Zechariah's (and yours) Obstacles (4:7)**

"Who art thou, O Great Mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain" (v. 7)

Question: What does it mean that, "The great mountain will become a plain"?

Answer: The "Mountain" refers to:

- A. The obstacles hindering Zechariah.
- B. The difficulties Zechariah is up against.
- C. The resisting power of satan to dominate you.
- D. The hurdles opposing the temple's completion.

Question: What happens to the mountain when the Holy Spirit is poured out?

Answer: "It becomes a plain" (v. 7) (or)

- ◆ Is leveled
- ◆ Is brought down
- ◆ Is subdued
- ◆ Is brought under the Spirit's control

Fact: "The hills melt like wax at the presence of the Lord" (Psalm 97:5)

Fact: "A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies" (v. 3)

(Oh The Glory Of His Presence)

"Hills" (v. 5) refers to whatever is in your life that is not God's will for you.

"Melt" (v. 5) means to clear away, dissolve and make disappear.

Real Pentecostal Fire...

- ... Will "burn up" the chaff in our lives!
- ... Will "purge out" the old leaven!
- ... Will "get out" what we cannot get out!

"It's By My Spirit Saith The Lord"

III. **God "Reassures" Zechariah's (and your) Heart (4:8,9 & 10)**

"His hands shall also finish it" (v. 9)

- ◆ For Zechariah, the project was delayed a long time.
- ◆ For the Jews, it was a delay causing discouragement.
- ◆ Haggai describes God's house as "wasted". (Haggai 1:9)

(But God Had A Word For Zechariah) And God Has A Word For You

"His (God's) hands shall also finish it" (Zechariah 4:9)

Fact: God will finish what He has begun in you.

Fact: God will fulfill what He has planned for you.

Fact: God will faithfully complete His design.

(So Quit Pouting)

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“For who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice” (v. 10)

(Remember)

- A. God’s people were despising the work at hand.
- B. God’s people were looking lightly at their task.
- C. God’s people were comparing the present with the past.
- D. God’s people were grumbling where they were.
- E. God’s people were sulking over the half completed temple.

“Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?” (Haggai 2:3)

(But God Says...)

“You Shall Rejoice: (v. 10) which means:

- #1. It’s time for the Spirit to rejoice your heart once again.
- #2. It’s time to quit belly-aching over your sour grapes.
- #3. It’s time to stop looking only at what you see.
- #4. It’s time to believe God for supernatural adjustment.

Question: How can we be sure that God by His Spirit will not pass us by?

Answer: (v. 10), “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro through the whole earth”.

Which Means:

- To meet us where we are!
- To change us where we are!
- To renew us where we are!
- To turn all despising into corporate rejoicing!
- To reveal His Glory in answer to prayer!
- To bring about his completed plan!

IV. God “Reminds” Us Of The Cost (Vs. 11-14)

“What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?” (v. 12)

Fact: The two branches refer to Joshua, Zerubbabel and the Jews ministering the stream of oil!

Question: What are they doing?

Answer: “Empty the golden oil out of themselves” (v. 12)

- #1. God pours the oil in (from the oil trees).
- #2. We empty the oil out (as we serve God).

What Is The Cost To Be Used Of God?

“Then said he, these are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord” (v. 14)

(What’s The Cost?)

- #1. **Abiding** – As the oil flows from the olive branches into the pipes to flow down to the central bowl of the candlestick (so the oil of the Spirit flows to us as we abide in the Vine as branches).

#2. **Anointing** – Which is the free flow of the Holy Spirit operating in the life of the believer, unhindered by an un-yielded self life. (Remember v. 12 – it is “Golden oil” which is pure oil).

3. **Availability** – (Where do anointed people receive God’s anointing?)
“That stand by the Lord’ (v. 14)

Fact: This word “stand” means:

- A. A position of waiting before the Lord.
- B. A position of expecting to receive.
- C. A position of seeking earnestly.

“Standing By The Lord” (Means:)

Let others go their way to watch T.V. or whatever.
Let others go their way to pursue “other interests”.
But let’s you and I “Stand by and wait”.

“Allow the **Oil to be poured**”

“Expect our **Lamps to be filled**”

(Is Pentecost For Now?)

“Two Olive Trees” (Vs. 3 & 11)

(“How do the two olives trees encourage us all”?)

#1. **“Two”** means **“Two”**

- A. The word “Two” signifies a double supply.
- B. The word “Two” signifies a double portion.
- C. The word “Two” signifies and abundant supply of oil.

#2. **“Olive”** means **“Olive Trees for olive oil”**

- A. Olive oil was one of the 5 principal spices of the Holy anointing oil. (Exodus 30:24)
- B. Olive oil signifies Holy oil that results in holy living.
- C. Olive oil signifies Supernatural supply, for only God can make us holy and into His likeness.

#3. **“Trees”** mean **“Something alive and growing”**

- A. Able to produce fruit
- B. Able to yield good produce.
- C. Able to supply fresh life.

So “Two Olive Trees” Mean:

- 1. “Two” – **Abundant Supply**
 - 2. “Olive” – **Supernatural Supply**
 - 3. “Trees” – **Fresh Supply**
- Conclusion**

Real Pentecost (Now and Then) Will:

- 1. “Renew” our strength!
- 2. “Remove” our obstacles!
- 3. “Reassure” our hearts!
- 4. “Remind” us of the cost!

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts” (Zechariah 4:6)

AMEN!
Pastor Bill Kirk,
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