



“The Light of the World”
Zechariah 4:1-14

Introduction:

I. THE VISION (4:1-3)

A. The Angel’s Question (vs. 1-2a)

“Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and roused me, as a man who is awakened from his sleep.”

“He said to me, ‘What do you see?’ ”

B. The Lampstand (vs. 2b)

“And I said, ‘I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it’ ”

“and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it”

C. The Two Olive Trees (vs. 3)

“also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side.”

II. THE VISION’S INTERPRETATION (4:4-10)

A. The Prophet’s Question (vs. 4-5)

“Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me saying, ‘What are these, my lord?’ ”

“So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, ‘Do you not know what these are?’
And I said, ‘No, my lord.’ ”

B. The Angel’s Encouragement to Zerubabel (vs. 6-10)

“Then he said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying...’ ”

- 1) The temple will be completed by divine power. (vs. 6b - “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.”)
- 2) Every impediment and obstacle to the work will be removed. (vs. 7a - “What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain...”)
- 3) The temple will be successfully and joyfully completed. (vs. 7b - “and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’ ”)

- 4) Zerubabel's hands, which began the work, will complete it. (vs. 8-9a - "Also the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it.' "
- 5) The Word of God will be fulfilled. (vs. 9b - "Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.")
- 6) Critics of the work will be silenced. (vs. 10a - "For who has despised the day of small things?")
- 7) Well-wishers will rejoice. (vs. 10b - "But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel...")
- 8) God's wisdom and care will be magnified. (vs. 10c - "these are the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth.")

IV. THE ANGELIC EXPLANATION OF THE TWO OLIVE TREES (4:11-14)

A. The Prophet's Double Question (vs. 11-12)

"Then I said to him, 'What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?' "

"And I answered the second time and said to him, 'What are the two olive branches which are beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden oil from themselves?' "

B. The Angel's Answer (vs. 13-14)

"So he answered me, saying, 'Do you not know what these are?' And I said, 'No, my lord.' "

"Then he said, 'These are the two anointed ones who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.' "

Conclusion:

- 1) It is the Spirit of God that empowers His people to carry out His work.
- 2) Nothing is impossible for our omnipotent God.
- 3) No work is small if God is in it.
- 4) God's people are meant to be spiritual light in a dark world.

Food for Thought:

- 1) For whose encouragement is the message of this chapter given?
- 2) What central truth is conveyed by the supply for the lampstand?
- 3) How does Zerubbabel prefigure the Messiah?
- 4) Who are meant by the two olive trees?