

Digging Deeper

Zechariah

1 Plan, 8 Visions, 2 Oracles

Finding Hope & Direction in a Broken World

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Today's Lesson Plan C4, C5:1-4

Zechariah's 5th Vision
Zechariah's 6th Vision

Vision 5

*C4 The Golden Lampstand
and Two Olive Trees*

The Interpretation The Characters V1-6



V1 The angel speaking = a representative of God with a message for Zechariah.

V2 The lampstand of gold with its bowl, seven lamps, seven spouts, two golden pipes = A menorah, with parts to distribute oil.

V3 The two olive trees and two clusters = a copious and self-sustaining oil supply for the lamp.

V6 Zerubbabel = their political leader responsible for getting the Temple built.

V6 My Spirit = The Holy Spirit's power available to them enabling the completion the work on the Temple = also, the golden oil in V12

The Interpretation The Characters V7-9



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V7 The mountain = an insurmountable pile of difficulties.

The plain = the removal of all obstacles.

V7 The top stone = completion of the building.

V9 The foundation having been laid by Zerubbabel = under his direction.

V9 His hands finishing it = a promise of completion during his tenure = soon (~5 yrs.)

V9 The LORD of Armies = God.

The Interpretation The Characters V10-14



V10 The day of small things = an indication of the attitude of some toward the work of rebuilding the Temple, and the Temple itself.

V10 The seven eyes of the LORD = His omniscience, His always knowing all things happening on the earth.

V14 The two anointed ones = relate directly back to the two olive trees and their clusters of oil producing olives = divinely appointed leaders to administer God's plan with the enablement of the Holy Spirit = a well lubricated, finely tuned operation.

V14 The Lord of the whole earth = Christ = past in creation, present with us always, and in His future kingdom.

The Interpretation The Setting V1-3

V1 The arousal = Zechariah was overwhelmed.

V2 A question asked = a verification that the prophet was properly engaged.

V2 The lampstand = gold = highly valuable and important = reflective of deity = the Light of the World = Christ the King.

V2 The bowl = the collection point of the oil = the filling of the Holy Spirit = divine enablement.

V2 Seven of the various parts = of a divine nature and origin = God's power & authority.

V3 The location of the olive trees = an infinite source of light for the whole world, able to be maintained without human activity.

The Interpretation The Setting V4-7



*“Not by might,
nor by power,
but by my Spirit,
says the Lord of hosts.”
- Zechariah 4:6*

V4 Second question = Zechariah wanted clarification to ensure his understanding of the vision was accurate.

V5 The angel's question = an inquiry into the prophet's degree of understanding.

Zechariah's answer places him in a position to receive instruction.

V6 The means revealed = My Spirit = Divine intervention would be required.

V7 A question addressed = The mountain is the difficulties they would need to overcome. It would be during Zerubbabel's administration. And it would bring forth great rejoicing!

This contrasts sharply with Haggai's lament for the neglected and unfinished Temple.

The Interpretation The Setting V8-14



V10 The eyes which range to and fro = God's omniscience = they can count on His ability to meet the needs of the occasion.

V11-13 A trio of questions = "I still don't get it." Again, Zechariah is set up to receive the confirmation he desires regarding the two olive trees and their clusters of oil producing olives *which empty the golden oil from themselves.*

The Implications V1

V1 Zechariah may have been overwhelmed by the content of the previous 4 visions.

The Prophet, as well as the nation, needed to be “awakened” to the reality of their situation.

They were experiencing spiritual exhaustion.

Zechariah by his journeys into the spiritual realm and the nation by their exile.

How do we respond when we experience spiritual exhaustion?

The Implications V2

V2 To comprehend this vision, one must understand the typological significance of the lampstand: As the singular provider of light within the Temple, the lamp is also a symbol of Israel's call to be a light to the pagan nations. This prefigures God's relationship to Israel as it was meant to be in the OT times and as it will be after her future restoration.

Is the restoration of our relationship to God enabling us to be the light He wants us to be?

The Implications V2+3

V3 What is revealed is an eternal light maintained without human intervention.

Contrast this with the previous Tabernacle and Temple where the priests were responsible for keeping the lamps loaded with oil.

Why would the vision eliminate the need for human effort? Because this unending light is the light of truth which is Christ. And the power of the Holy Spirit is an endless resource, supply of “fuel”.

The gold = His Deity.

Seven = His Unmatched Power & Authority.

The oil = the Holy Spirit with His enabling power.

When will Christ's presence remove the need for humans to keep His light lit?

The Implications V6

What encouragement was provided regarding the completion of the Temple?

V6 As he did in Haggai, Zerubbabel received the clarification regarding how the Temple would get completed.

This should have brought tremendous encouragement that Zerubbabel could share with this community. The Holy Spirit guaranteed their success. This is illustrated in the following verse.

The Implications V7

V7 The removal of the mountain and it becoming a plain communicated that any obstacles to their successful completion of the Temple would be removed by the power of God.

This is emphasized by the definite article being placed before the word “great” instead of in its usual placement before the word “mountain”.

The Temple will be finished amidst shouts of joy and praise:

Grace = lovely = their proclaiming its impressive beauty and charm.

The Implications V9+10

V9 This verse addresses the timing. The post-exilic community was tired of waiting and loosing hope. Zerubbabel having presided over the laying of the foundation of the new Temple did not prevent the work from ceasing.

The question was would it ever be completed. That “his hands” would complete it was a promise that it would be done before the end of Zerubbabel’s administration.

V10 The plumb line in his hand was another hopeful promise. It is no surprise this would cause rejoicing! There is a future equivalent when the Millennial Temple will be built.

The Implications V14

V14 The oil again represents the Holy Spirit's empowerment for the administration of God's eternal plan. In Zechariah's day this would refer to the political and religious leaders responsible for its oversight, that being Zerubbabel and Joshua. They needed divine power.

In the future this administration of God's plan will be the responsibility of God the Son, Jesus Christ, under the direction of God the Father and empowered by God the Holy Spirit.

This administration will be the last as it will be in place forever after.

The Summary

In the fifth vision God revealed Israel's responsibility to share the light of God's truth with the rest of the world - and their resource for doing so. Some of the people knew their responsibility, but they did not fully appreciate that they had a supernatural resource that would enable them to fulfill their responsibility.

Do we not also have that responsibility and supernatural resource?

The Summary

What have we learned about their future, and ours, thus far?

As kids these days like to say, "It will be lit!"

The future brings God's plan and God's people all together into one beautifully restored relationship.

And He does it during two major events.

They are both dependent upon the return of Christ to rule and reign over the earth. The first being the Millennium and the second being the Eternal State.

You can learn more about these in other BTC prophecy classes.

5 Critical Items

- Our Hope is in the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
 - Our Direction is to be a light to our piece of the world where we are.
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- God's Power is revealed by His removing the obstacles to our getting His will accomplished.
 - God's Character is shown in His providing us with motivation.

5 Critical Items

- *The Relationship Cycle – another picture of the Restoration.*
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Vision #6

C5:1-4 The Flying Scroll

Concepts Related to the last 3 Visions

1. *A Rod of Iron*
2. *A System of Organized Godlessness*
3. *A Prelude to the Kingdom*

My Trampoline Story

A Rod of Iron: The absolute authority wielded by my Dad. He locked “the kingdom” up tight! I was “exiled”.

A System of Godlessness: My lack of attention to my ruling authority.

A Prelude to the Kingdom: Me and my mess getting straightened out.

Dad = ? Me = ?



The Sixth Vision C5:1-4



The Interpretation

V1-4:

V1+2 **The flying scroll** = ~ 30ft x 15ft = Huge
= Indicative of the impact of the Word of God and the severity of His judgment upon sin.

Flying = a participle denoting continuous action, to and fro, covering all the necessary places to get its job done.

V3 **The curse** going forth = a departure from the hope and comfort of the previous visions to a warning from the LORD. Sin has consequences!!!

Over the whole land = confirms the far and wide distances covered by the above-mentioned to and fro flight of the scroll.

Writing on both sides being visible = it was rolled all the way open, nothing is hidden, all is revealed (incl. the size).

The Sixth Vision C5:1-4



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The Interpretation

V1-4:

V3 Writing on both sides = The application of the curse is to all guilty

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human bodies) with all its contents. They will completely vanish.

THIS IS A DIRE WARNING!

The Sixth Vision C5:1-4

The Implications

V1-4

The Iron Rod

= The LORD will not tolerate evil, period. Transgressors will be dealt with severely. Grace manifested and rejected results in punishment.

And it will result in death during Christ's reign.

Sin will be handled with a "rod of iron" = God's inflexible, unbreakable, absolute authority and divine judgment as prophesied in Psalm 2:9 and Revelation 2:27, 12:5 and 19:15.

(Refs are incl. on your handout.)

The Sixth Vision

C5:1-4

The Implications

V1-4

The Prelude to Christ's Kingdom (His Millennial Reign and beyond!)

Other Scrolls, also containing judgment: Jeremiah 36:2, Ezekiel 2:9, Hebrews 4:12, Rev 5:1-9, 11:1-11.

For a parallel passage see Deuteronomy 30. It covers their dispersion (retribution), repentance, reversal of fortunes, final regathering and restoration, national conversion, judgment of their foes, obedience and blessings.

5 Critical Items

- Our Hope is in Christ's righteousness!
 - Our Direction is to warn others of coming judgment.
 - God's Power is revealed in His eliminating sin.
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- God's Character is shown in His providing a way of escape.
 - The Relationship Cycle is Retribution.

Homework: *Review your Class Notes, Come prepared for next week's lesson, Work on the Character of God Word Search, Pray for your teachers, yourself, and your fellow students*

Thank You!

Hope to see you next week

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