

A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT: Zechariah 4:1-10

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

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?

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 and a some of the Israelites who were in captivity in Babylon were released with supplies and sent by Cyrus king of Persia, to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple in Judah to their God. The enemies of the Israelites, namely the Samaritans did not want the temple to be rebuild. They opposed them to the extent that the work was stopped for sixteen years. God sent His prophet Zechariah to encourage ZERUBBABEL to return and finish the work he started. He had a vision.

1. The prophet saw a golden candlestick. The church represents the candlestick. (Revelation 1:17) The church is a candlestick for enlightening the dark world and to hold the light of the revelation of the gospel. The candle is God's, the church is only the candlestick. The church belongs to God. The golden candlestick had seven lamps on it burning and shining bright. The Jewish church was one in Jerusalem but Christ who is the center of unity has many sockets. The candlestick had one bowl on top of it, oil was continually dripping into it, and from it by the seven pipes to the seven lamps, so that there was no need for further care. There was a continuous flow of oil, none was wasted. The bowl was continuously supplied without help of man. (V3). He saw two olive trees one on either side which supplied the oil.

2. Zechariah enquired, the meaning, he knew what he saw, but he wanted to know the significance of what he saw. He knew that there were candlesticks in the temple and the Priest were the ones who supplied the continuous supply of oil, but he did not see a Priest and the constant flow of oil was being supplied. The absence of the Priests was to show that although God had set up the priesthood again, He could function without them.

3. The intention of this vision was to assure the prophet that the work of rebuilding the temple should, by God's provision and grace be brought to completion; even though the enemies were many and the friends were few. It was to encourage ZERUBBABEL that he was a worker with

God, and the work of rebuilding the temple would be approved by God and He would take ownership of it.

4. God would carry on the work without external forces, but, by His Spirit in man. He would do it not by human forces, but by His Spirit. The people's spirit would be encouraged by His words, and they would return and finish the work. It was His Spirit that encouraged Cyrus king of Persia to release them, commissioned and supply the material for the rebuilding of the temple.

5. All the difficulties in their way that look like mountains would be removed, they would be like plains. The mountains may seem great, but when God has work to be done, they will become as level plains. Christ is our ZERUBBABEL, nothing is too difficult for Him. ZERUBBABEL started the rebuilding of the temple, and he will finish the work. He who has begun a great work in us will bring it to completion. (Philippians 1:6) When they complete the rebuilding, they would know that God's prophet had given them the message God gave him for them. Their enemies would be silenced when the work is completed. In God's work, no one should despise small beginnings.

6. ZERUBBABEL and the people did the work, but they could not accomplish it without the provision of God and His presence which was represented by those SEVEN, the SEVEN eyes of the Lord.