



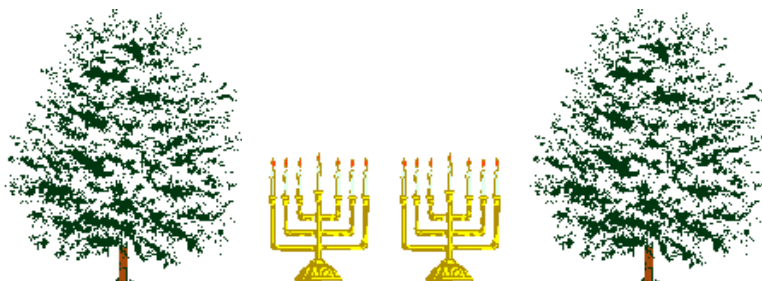
# Two Olive Trees - Two Lampstands

## 2 + 2 Witnesses



Scripture provides the following clue to the identity of the two witnesses.

Rev 11:4 These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** standing before the God of the earth.



The symbolism of the two olive trees and two lampstands is encountered in a slightly different arrangement in the book of Zechariah.

Zech 4:2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a **lampstand** of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps."  
:3 "**Two olive trees** are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

:11 Then I answered and said to him, "What are these **two olive trees**; at the right of the **lampstand** and at its left?"

:12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"

:13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

:14 So he said, "These are the **two anointed ones**, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

**NB:** The words 'two anointed ones' is better rendered the 'two sons of fresh oil'.

These verses in Zechariah are as cryptic as those encountered in the book of Revelation. However they do advise us that **olive oil** passes from the olive trees to the lampstand.

To assist us in perceiving the identity of the olive trees and lampstands we need to consider;

Rev 1:20 ... and the seven lampstands which you saw are the

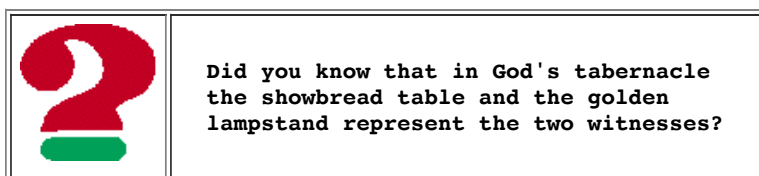
This makes it apparent that a lampstand in bible symbolism is used to represent a church.

The identity of the olive trees is less obvious. Yet we know that the olive trees feed the church (or churches) with olive oil. The olive trees are the source of olive oil. Nevertheless, as God the Father can not die, they must be entities which exist separate from God Himself.

The church representing a lampstand converts the olive oil it receives into light! (This light guides the footsteps of the members.)

Consideration of these issues suggests the olive oil represents the word of God! Thus the church should continually feed upon the words of God in order that it may be able to bring enlightened teaching to those in its presence. (The holy spirit serves to bring the word of God to mind (John 14:26) to assist in helping one understand how the word of God should be viewed.)

In a sense the olive trees represent the messengers through whom the inspired words of God have been brought to the church. The writings of chosen men of God such as Moses, Daniel, Paul and others form the olive tree witness! Through such men olive oil is received by the congregation/church.



In the tabernacle the showbread table was placed outside the veil toward the north and the lampstand was placed outside the veil toward the south. The light from the lampstand illuminated the table. On the table was 12 cakes, ie the showbread. In this symbolism the showbread cakes represent the 'spiritual food' God presented before the descendants of Jacob.

The clothing of the two witnesses in 'sackcloth' portrays the nature of their witness. Their role was to state or provide the testimony of God. They were to exercise humility, while delivering the message with an appropriate level of certainty.

Since we are informed there are two olive trees and two lampstands then each of the witnesses must have a dual nature.

In respect to the church and the chosen men of God a natural division exists and this can be seen in relation to the old and new covenants. However, the text of the prophecy is suggesting another division.

Rev 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

In this verse we encounter a deed of Moses (ie to turn waters to blood) and a deed of Elijah (ie to shut up heaven). This suggests a law and prophets division.

In the Old Testament book of Zechariah we encounter two olive trees, but only one lampstand. This implies the second lampstand was not present at

this time.

Therefore, it seems the two olive trees represent,

- 1) the Law
- 2) the Prophets

while the two lampstands represent,

- 1) the Old Covenant Church
- 2) the New Testament Church.



THE LAW and its  
messengers



OLD COVENANT  
CHURCH



NEW TESTAMENT  
CHURCH



THE PROPHETS and  
their message(s)

The 'lampstands attached to olive trees' arrangement is similar to the 'branches attached to the olive tree' arrangement found in Romans 11:17-24. It also mimics the 'branches of the vine and the vine' arrangement in John 15:1-8.

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.  
:2 Every branch in Me that does not yield fruit He takes away; ...."

{The two witnesses prophesied in the book of Revelation are to die. After considering John 15:1-2 and Romans 11:17-24 some may consider this means Jesus Christ and the attached branches are prophesied to perish.

However, in the two witnesses symbolism Jesus Christ is being represented by the Law and the Prophets, ie the 'spirit' of Christ (His teachings). This spirit or essence of Christ for a period of time will cease to exist! Likewise the branches will cease to portray the teachings of Christ when the predicted period of spiritual famine arrives, Amos 8:11-14.}

Having considered the identity and form of the witnesses we can now reflect upon the period of time symbolically referred to as 1,260 days.