

## Zechariah 4:1-14 – The Golden Lampstand

The first three chapters of Zechariah contain the first 4 of 8 visions. The first three visions communicated that God would judge those who harmed Israel, that God would protect and dwell with the people of Israel and that Jerusalem would prosper. The fourth vision was about Joshua the high priest and one called the Branch. The fifth vision is about Zerubbabel and the completion of the temple.

### **Read Zechariah 4:1-7.**

The interpreting angel, who was last explicitly mentioned in 2:3, was again mentioned in 4:1. What did this angel do?

The angel asked Zechariah what he saw. What did Zechariah see? There is debate about whether or not this lampstand was the temple menorah or another lampstand not associated with the temple. What are the pros and cons for each position? If it was the temple menorah, how was it different from the menorah in the tabernacle? See Exodus 37:17-24. (4:2-3)

What question did Zechariah have for the angel? What was the angel's question for Zechariah? How did Zechariah answer the angel? (4:4-5)

Is there meaning to each detail of the menorah? For example, Andrew Robert Fausset (an Irish Anglican) believed the menorah is the church, the gold is purity of doctrine, the bowl on top is Christ, the seven lamps are the combination of the Jewish church, as stem, and the Gentile churches and the seven pipes are the various ways the Holy Spirit imparts grace to the church. Some commentators have even more elaborate explanations of the details.

Verses 6 and 8 start with "the word of Yahweh". Verses 6-7 contain Yahweh's word concerning Zerubbabel. Who was Zerubbabel? See Ezra 2:2; 3:2, 8; 4:2-3; 5:2, Haggai 1:1, 12, 14; 2:2, 4, 20-23. What was Yahweh's word to Zechariah for Zerubbabel? How do you think this message would have affected those who were working on the temple? (4:6-7)

How would the temple be completed? Through strength, community, hard work, bravery, skill and intelligence? (4:6)

**Read Zechariah 4:8-14.**

Verse 8 introduced the second word of Yahweh to Zechariah in this fifth vision. What was Yahweh's word concerning Zerubbabel in verse 9? See Ezra 3:8-10; 5:2. Some commentators believe that the foundation laid in Ezra 3:8-10 needed to be redone when the temple building restarted under the prophecy of Haggai. (4:8-9)

What was the "day of small things"? Why did some despise the day of small things? What would happen to these people? See Ezra 3:12-13 and Haggai 2:3. (4:10)

In verse 10, ESV and NASB have "plumb line". KJV has "plummet" which is the same as a plumb line. NIV has "chosen capstone". "Capstone" would be consistent with "the top stone" in verse 7. Which translation fits the context best?

In verse 10, what are "these seven"? What do "these seven" represent? (4:10)

In verse 11, what did Zechariah ask about? Did he get an answer to his question? In verse 12, what did Zechariah ask about? What question was asked of Zechariah? How did Zechariah answer the question? (4:11-13)

Zechariah finally got an answer in verse 14. What was the answer that was given? (4:14)

ESV, KJV, NASB have "two anointed ones". NIV has "two who are anointed". The ESV note says the Hebrew is "two sons of new oil". A few translations have "sons of oil". Who are these two people? Some think the two are Joshua and Zerubbabel, the focus of visions 4 and 5. Others note that the vision has the two olive trees supplying oil and not receiving oil. "Anointed ones" would be those who receive oil. Some see the oil as associated with the Spirit of God and therefore the two are the prophets Haggai and Zechariah who speak God's word by the Spirit of God. Which interpretation best fits the context?