**Zechariah’s Joy  
Trusting God in Days of Pain # 7, ‘The Golden Lampstand’**

**April 23rd, 2017**

**Text: Zech. 4:1-6**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor – Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Intro:**

1. **Illus. Waking up - stories…**

* Four previous visions, awakened and ‘arrested’ – ‘spiritually lethargic’
* Tired, discouraged, defeated, loss of direction and enthusiasm…

1. **Context:** **How are we to read the promises given to Israel? (4 ways)**

* They are for national Israel (c/f Zech.8:13)
* There is still a future for repentant ‘Israel’ (c/f Rom.11)
* Through Christ Gentiles become partners in the promises (c/f Eph.2:12; Gal.3:29)
* Many of these promises are ‘layered’…partly fulfilled
* (example: Messiah’s coming in two ‘comings’, but this is ‘veiled’ in the OT, Heb.9:26)

1. **Setting**

* Zechariah = ***‘one whom the Lord remembers’***
* **Two main sections:**
* Chap.1-8 – **God will intervene! Trust His Promises!**
* Chap. 9-14 (perhaps 40 years later) – **Messiah (Jesus) is the center of God’s redemptive intervention!**
* **Unity of message:**
* The ‘call’ for the cleansing of the community
* The renewal of the covenant promises
* Instruction about the land, care of widows, orphans and foreigners
* Ingathering of the exiles…but most important
* The climax of all God’s revelation – sending His Messiah (c/f Zech.14:9)

1. **Summary Theme:**

* ***It is an encouragement to God’s discouraged and frightened people to pursue Him, because He will keep ALL His covenant promises (despite current circumstances) – most important of which is to send a Messiah!***
* 8 ‘Night Visions’…will teach Zechariah and His people something about God, themselves and their situation…but will also point forward to future Messianic hope…
* Illus. D.L. Moody, ‘**I leak!’**

***Q. What is the power source for God’s people and God’s work?***

**II. The Message (1:1-5; 11-14 *‘a lampstand all of gold and a bowl on top of it...’   
v.* 2)**

1. **The Vision Described (1-5)**

* Talking…then looking ***‘What do you see?’*** (1)
* C/f ‘The *Menorah’* in Ex.25:31-40; Temple priest’s tasks
* A golden lampstand and a bowl on top (seems to be ‘supplying’ the lampstand) golden base, shaft, 6 stems/pipes connect the bowl to the Lampstand (The bowl seems to serve as a reservoir for the oil…providing a steady flow of oil)
* Then…two olive trees (each with a branch) on either side of the lampstand

1. **Three Exceptions**

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1. **Three Exceptions**

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* The ‘bowl’ is on top of the lampstand
* Seven pipes to each lamp (ie.7 times 7, 49)
* The two olive trees, with branches
* Why the additions: primary meaning…**the ‘abundant oil’ (endless flow) reservoir streamed constantly without help**

1. **Interlude (6-10)**

* Encouragement to Zerubbabel and the people
* Promise to Zerubbabel (7-9), ‘***The Lord of Hosts has sent ME to you’*** (9) Zerubbabel: Despite many obstacles the job will get done!

1. **Two Olive Trees** (11-14), ‘sons of oil’

* Two olive trees…by means of two ‘sprouts’ are pouring oil into the bowls
* Two offices: One Priest (Joshua, Chap.3), One King (civil leader, Zerubbabel) ***‘These are the two anointed ones who stand before the Lord of the earth*** (14)
* Redemptive Center: But this is not fully fulfilled in them… It’s of Christ, **‘the anointed One’ – A Priest and a King,** Jesus gives the Holy Spirit in abundant supply to empower His God’s work

1. **The Meaning (6-10)**
2. **The Obstacles in God’s Work**

* **The Work Can Feel Impossible (7)**
* Problems without and problems within (7, ‘***What are you, oh great mountain?***’)
* **Apply:** The world, the flesh and the Devil; Broken people, broken churches
* Sometimes obstacles can seem **‘insurmountable’**
* **The Work Can Seem ‘Endless’ (9, ‘…*his hands shall also complete it’*)**
* The project had taken 20 years and would take another 4 years
* **Illus.** God’s ways (c/f Rom.11:33-36); **Apply:** Global missions
* **The Work Can Seem ‘Insignificant’ (10)**
* **‘*For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice’***
* **Illus.** Ezra 3, this is it? It’s not as good as Solomon’s!

1. **The Operation of God’s Work (6, others)**

* **His Work is His Delight**
* God is ‘toward’ His people’s work…it is His delight (10, ***‘These seven eyes of the Lord which range through the whole earth’***)
* God’s work will prevail, ‘…***the Lord of all the earth***’ (14). His Son is the Light of the world and we are His ‘Lampstand’
* **His Work Through Us Is Spirit Empowered (6)**
* **‘*Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord of Hosts’*** (6)
* God’s work will not be accomplished by ‘***might’ =*** strength of many(Resources); ‘***power***’ (Resoluteness)
* Context: Zerubbabel was to know that God’s Spirit was the only resource they needed for rebuilding the temple
* **Illus.** Woodsman; **Apply:** The supply of oil to the ‘wick’ is external…
* **His Work Through Us Is For Others**
* **‘Center piece’** is the Lampstand…so let’s pull this together
* C/f Matt:5:15; Charles Feinberg, uses for oil
* God’s people are to shine (by God’s power) to others – As Jesus’ Spirit fills and empower His people they will shine God’s glory to all peoples…so that the Nations will see God and glorify Him

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