

Passages to Ponder

Zechariah 4.1-7

1. Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.
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."
4. So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What *are* these, my lord?"
5. Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."
6. So he answered and said to me: "This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.
7. 'Who *are* you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

The bible teaches that where God guides God provides, or in other words if God tells us to do something He will give us the strength, power and the resources to accomplish it. We see an example of this in the vision that God gave Zechariah to share with Zerubbabel and the children of Israel. In the book of Ezra God called the exiled Israelites out of captivity to go back to Jerusalem to restore and rebuild the temple which was destroyed. This was a difficult task because of the condition of the temple and the constant attacks from their enemies. These two factors working together in full force caused them to cease from building the temple.

As a result of this God sent an angel to give Zechariah a vision and a message to encourage and exhort the leaders and the people to continue to build. The vision God gave Zechariah was of a lampstand that received an automatic and endless supply of oil. This lampstand had two olive trees one on each side which produced oil, pipes were tapped into these trees and ran to a bowl which sat on top of the lampstand, from the bowl pipes were ran into each one of the lamps so they could burn steady and strong. The interpretation the angel gave Zechariah was that this task could not be accomplished in human might or power, but only by rely and remaining in the all-sufficient and endless supply of the Spirit of God. With His help they would move the mountain of rubble and shout victory to the Lord. You and I have been called to be witnesses and lights to a dark and destroyed world, The Lord has given us His Spirit so we can burn

steady and strong and shout victory to the Lord.