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# NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER BUT BY MY SPIRIT

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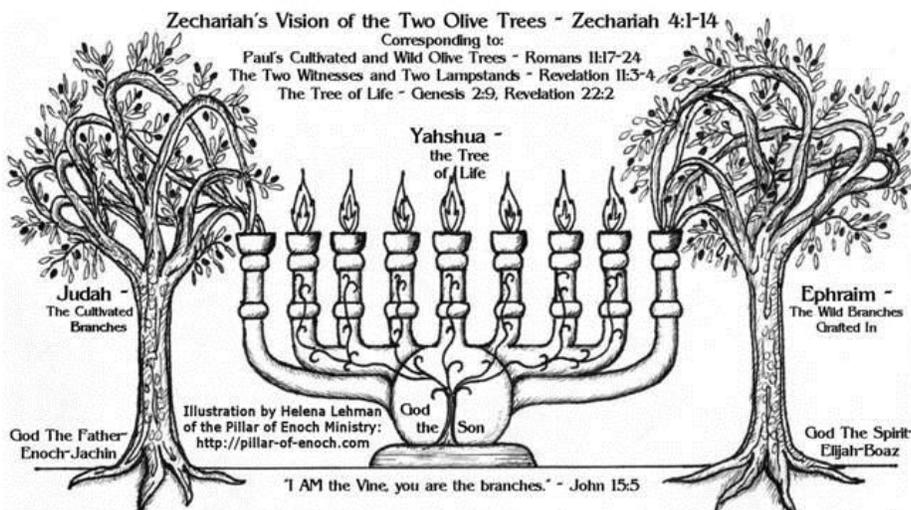
Scripture: Zechariah 4:1-7

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20; Rev 3:14-17, Luke 12:49-53

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<sup>1</sup> Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Two olive trees *are* by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." <sup>4</sup> So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What *are* these, my lord?" <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> '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 menorah which was adopted by the Maccabees

About 2,500 years ago (520 BC) lived a prophet of God in Jerusalem by the name of **Zechariah** before the time of Nehemiah and Ezra.

During the time of Zechariah, many of the Jews were returning from Babylonian captivity. There was a great desire among the people to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by the Babylonians when they took the Jewish people captive in 586 B.C.

The ruins of the Temple was like a mountain of stone and rubbish. Just the thought of putting all the broken pieces back together again seemed utterly impossible. But this was the task God had commissioned Zechariah to do

Well one night an angel of the LORD appeared to Zechariah in a vision.



In this vision Zechariah saw a number of items related to the Temple. He saw a **golden lampstand with a bowl on top of it and on the stand were seven lamps with seven pipes coming into each of the seven lamps. To the right and left of the lamp stand**

**were two olive trees.**

The golden lamp stand was familiar to Zechariah because it was one of the furnishings in the old Temple that had been destroyed. But it was those two olive trees that supplied the lamps with oil through the seven pipes that had Zechariah puzzled.

In the old Temple one of the more tedious duties of the Temple service was the constant care of the golden lampstand. They had to be continually filled with oil in order to stay lit. They had to be cleaned of all soot and the wicks needed to be trimmed.

But in this vision, **Zechariah doesn't see any Temple servants tending to the golden lamp.** Instead he sees “**self-filling lamps**” being fed with a constant supply of olive oil from the two olive trees.

In verses 6, 7 the angel explained the meaning of the vision. Notice in verse 6, the angel mentions a man by the name of Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel was the head of the tribe of Judah during the time of their return from Babylonian captivity. He had been the primary overseer of the construction of the second Temple, the one that had been destroyed by the Babylonians.

Now 70 years later, Zerubbabel has the responsibility of overseeing the re-construction of the Temple.

Well this reconstruction project had delayed. Zerubbabel and all his laborers had grown discouraged. Every day when they reported for work and saw that massive pile of stone and rubble the task of putting it all back together again seemed impossible.

But look at verses 6 and 7...

<sup>6</sup> 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.**” <sup>7</sup> ‘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!””

How would Zerubbabel accomplish this impossible task of rebuilding the Temple?

† It would not be by **MIGHT**. Might refers to the collective strength and resources of a group. In other words, the Temple is not going to be rebuilt by all the people pulling all their collective strength together to get the job done.

† And it will not be by **POWER**. Power refers to individual strength. In other words the Temple was not going to be rebuilt by Zerubbabel’s master engineering or by the skills and abilities of any one craftsman.

The Temple would be rebuilt, not by **HUMAN MIGHT** or **HUMAN POWER**, but by what? But **BY THE SPIRIT of God** says the LORD of hosts!

In verse 7, the angel reveals what the Spirit was going to do.

“Who are you, O Great Mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain.”

The mountain he is referring to is that mountain of stone and rubble that used to be the Temple.

By the power of God's Holy Spirit, Zerubbabel and his men would transform that mountainous ruin into the glorious Temple of God.

The latter part of verse 7 says, and he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it."

The capstone was the final stone to be laid when the construction was complete. It was the finishing touch! And on that day when Zerubbabel would set that capstone in place he and all the Temple workers will say, "God did this, not us!" It was by the power of God's Spirit this Temple has been rebuilt.

Now the fact that the Temple was rebuilt over 2,500 years ago in the city of Jerusalem may not mean much to you and me. But the manner in which it was rebuilt has everything to do with you and me.

For the remainder of the message I would like for you to consider three important thoughts.

"Not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit."

The Vision has declared that we have moved from the menorah of 7 Hampstead to 9. In the new figure we see the old seven lampstand

# The FEASTS of Israel



THE SPRING FEASTS: 1. THE PASSOVER 2. THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD 3. THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS THE SUMMER FEAST 4. THE FEAST OF PENTECOST THE FALL FEASTS OF ISRAEL 5. THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS 6. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT 7. THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Each one of these feasts and celebrations, along with those that occur at other times of the year such as Passover and Pentecost—were instituted directly by God through Moses roughly 3500 years ago

Jewish people have been keeping these festivals and the traditions that surround them down through all those centuries. But what many never understood is that each observance was filled with foreshadowing and symbols pointing to Jesus—the promised Messiah

Only now, looking back in the light of all Jesus is and all the He did, it is clear. He was there all along!

Of course, some sincere believers wonder why it should matter to us now. Now that Jesus has come. They wonder, “What difference does it make?”

Here's my answer: It's important because when you see how every little detail of these Old Testament festivals—from what the priests wore, to the arrangement of the furnishings in the tabernacle, to what was eaten and when—all points to Jesus, it builds your faith and inspires a healthy awe of God in your life.

Why don't Christians sacrifice animals to atone for their sins?

Why aren't Christians required to keep a kosher diet (unless they want to do so out of free choice)?

Why aren't Christians required to build a central temple in which to perform carefully prescribed rituals in a land specially chosen for them?

The three-year ministry of Jesus Christ our Lord, culminating in his death and resurrection and his establishment of his church, makes all the difference in the transition from the Old Testament or Covenant to the New Testament or Covenant. In those three short years he ushered in a new era of salvation, although the old era contained the seeds of the new.

The most salient and sometimes difficult statement on the relationship between Jesus and his disciples and the Old Covenant is found in **Matthew 5:**<sup>17-20</sup>, in the context of the famous Sermon on the Mount. The four verses read as follows in the New International Version:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus has fulfilled all the Old Testament. All the Laws of the OT are very important, and they have not been cancelled, BUT FULFILLED by Jesus our Lord. There is no need any more, to pray at certain times or in certain ways to please God or fulfill certain duties. The Old Testament is as important as the New Testament, you cannot have the one without the other.

All the rituals of the temple duties has been removed after Jesus' death and resurrection. God made sure that the temple is destroyed, because we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. God now lives in us, and He reveals himself to the world through us.

So why do we still hold to some rituals, like the Lord's Prayer and the

The creed's structure may be based on Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In a time when most Christians were illiterate, oral repetition of the Apostles' Creed, along with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, helped preserve and transmit the faith of the western churches

When you look at the early New Testament Church it soon becomes obvious the greatest threat they faced was persecution from those outside the Church

The early Christians lived their lives in such a sacrificial, Christ-like manner it caused the world to despise them.

They faced discrimination in the market place. They were driven from their homes. They were beaten.....and stoned.....and imprisoned. Many of the early Christians were burned at the stake.....thrown to the lions.....or even crucified.

But while the greatest threat to the early New Testament Church was persecution from the outside, it seems the greatest threat to the Church today is lukewarmness on the inside.

† -Whereas the early Church lived sacrificial lives, it seems many Christians today are living “superficial” lives.

† -Whereas the early Church was at odds with the world, today's Church seems to be in bed with the world.

† -Whereas the early Church endured persecution from non-Christians that caused them to unite, it seems in today's Church we are persecuting each other, causing us to divide.

There is a term being used today to describe the “brand” of Christianity we see so much of here in America. It is called “Casual Christianity.”

Casual Christianity is faith in moderation. It allows us to feel religious without having to prioritize their faith. Such moderation provides faith standpoint that is not demanding and does not require change.

**Rev 3:14-17** “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: <sup>15</sup> “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked”

The image of the Laodiceans being “neither cold nor hot” has traditionally been understood to mean they lacked spiritual fervor.....they were halfhearted in their commitment to Christ.....they were “casual Christians.”

Christ said he would rather they be COLD or HOT than lukewarm. There is something very sobering in those words. Christ is saying to be cold or hostile towards the gospel is better than being lukewarm.

**COLD** and **HOT** are both **positive**. Take coffee for example.

**HOT COFFEE** is good! And **ICE COLD COFFEE** is good **But** lukewarm coffee isn't good. **HOT TEA** is good! And **ICED TEA** is good. But **lukewarm** tea isn't good.

**Hot water** heals.....**Cold water** refreshes. Lukewarm water does neither.

From the standpoint of their ministry, the Church at Laodicea offered neither HEALING or REFRESHMENT.

I believe the point the LORD is making is this:

“What good is a lukewarm Christian to Me?”

- † A lukewarm Christian is an ineffective Christian.
- † A lukewarm Christian bears little or no spiritual fruit.
- † A lukewarm Christian makes little or no impact in the lives of those around them.

When we pour out water to drink: does not nature teaches us, that we always change the water before we drink it (cold or hot)

The Lord has warned me not to compromise to keep the peace. He said **Luke 12:49-53** “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! <sup>51</sup> Do *you* suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. <sup>52</sup> For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law”

In a dream on the 11/13/13 the Lord warned me to remain faithful, He said do what is right, you are my servant and the servant does what his Master tells him what to do.

I saw skeletons being laid on the ground. And the Lord commanded me to start digging a place for burial and then bury the skeletons. When I asked why He said “So I can give life to them, because I love them with an everlasting love, for what I have for them demands obedience”. “How can they lead others to the cross? How can they make disciples of all nations, if they refused to be disciplined? Through water of Baptism if they themselves refuse to obey?”

One of the beautiful, undeniable truths in the gospels is that Jesus truly did make a difference in the lives of those who genuinely put their faith and trust in Him and live in obedience to him.

† A blind man could come to Jesus and leave seeing.

† A lame man could come to Jesus and leave walking.

† A deaf man could come to Jesus and leave hearing.

† A leprous man could come to Jesus and leave cleansed and whole.

† A demon-possessed man could come to Jesus and leave “set free.”

† A sinful man could come to Jesus and leave forgiven.

Peter, Andrew, James and John would have spent their whole lives drawing up fish nets on the Sea of Galilee had Jesus not turned them into “fishers of men.” JESUS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES!

The adulterous woman would likely have gone through life engaging in one immoral relationship after another had Jesus not forgiven her and offered her a fresh start! JESUS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN HER LIFE!

Jairus likely would have gone through life as a grieving, broken-hearted father had Jesus not brought his daughter back to life. JESUS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN JAIRUS’ LIFE.

Saul likely would have spent his whole life persecuting Christians had Jesus not transformed him into one of the greatest preachers who ever lived. JESUS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN PAUL’S LIFE!

And the angel that talked with me came again, and



as a man that  
is wakened  
out of his sleep,  
And said unto me,  
What seest thou?  
And I said,  
I have looked,  
and behold



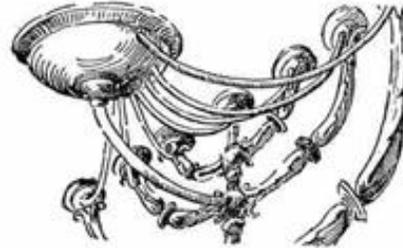
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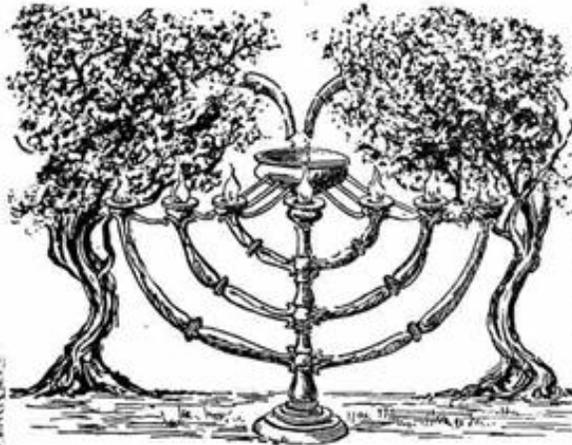
upon the top of it, and his



thereon, and



which are  
upon the top  
thereof: And



by it, one upon the  
right side of the bowl,  
and the other upon  
the left side thereof.  
So I answered and  
spake to the angel  
that talked with me,  
saying, What are these,  
my lord? Then the



saith the Lord of hosts.

that talked with me answered and said  
unto me, Knowest thou not what these be?  
And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered  
and spake unto me, saying, This is the  
word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying,

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