

“What God’s Eyes Prize, Don’t Despise!” Zechariah 4

The key to understanding Zechariah 4 is verse :9 which says -

⁹ “The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. Zechariah 4:9

In the Book of Jeremiah, we read of how sinful God’s people had become, even to the point of offering their children as human sacrifices to false gods. Even to the point God tells Jeremiah, do NOT PRAY for this people for their good. In the Book of Lamentations, we read of God’s fierce judgments, in Daniel of Jerusalem’s destruction and of the start of the captivity of many of God’s people in Babylon. Daniel and his companions go to Babylon as children (maybe young teens) but continue there until old men and until the Medes and the Persians defeat Babylon and rule the empire in its place. Daniel had prophesied seventy-years of captivity in Babylon and after this is over Cyrus King of Persia proclaims –

² Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. ³Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. ⁴And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem. Ezra 1:2-4 (NKJV)

However, by this time God’s people had built themselves homes in Babylon, Persia, Egypt and various other parts of the Persian Empire. Those who went back to Jerusalem were a remnant, a small minority, some old enough to remember the glories of Solomon’s Temple. Solomon was a great king, with near limitless wealth, wisdom and skilled builders, the rebuilding would done with charity, the selflessness of godly amateurs and whatever might have been left in burned rubble, which was not much more if any more than NOTHING ...

Verse :9 indicates Zerubbabel had finished the foundation, this is the foundation of this temple God tells Zechariah - His hands shall also finish it. Zechariah 4:9 Meaning he would finish it entirely, from bottom to top!

This is important to us because, the Temple is a type of Christ’s Body the Church -
¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

Just like Zerubbabel’s Temple, the foundation has already been laid, Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone ... We are those called to continue the building, just like Zerubbabel in difficult times, with few people and limited earthly resources –

I. A right kind of wokeness -

4 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?” Zechariah 4:1-2 A

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. 1 Thessalonians 5:6 (NKJV)

II. A vision of Christ’s-church -

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.” Zechariah 4:3-5

1. a lampstand of solid gold Zechariah 4:2 B *Our purpose is to be lights in a dark world-*

14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, **15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast the word of life, ... Philippians 2:14–16 (NKJV)

2. with a bowl on top of it... Zechariah 4:2 C

Not a bowl turned upside down like the basket mentioned by Christ in Matthew 5:15, but a bowl containing oil that supplies the lampstand!

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

3. and on the *stand* seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Zechariah 4:2 D

The pipes convey the bowl’s supply of oil to the lamps!

4. **3** Two olive trees *are* by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.” Zechariah 4:3 *Two anointed ministers, a king and a priest!*

III. A prophet’s and a pastor’s need, understanding, something to PRAY FOR -

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.” Zechariah 4:4-5

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10, *see also Ephesians 6:11-13...wiles are lies, deceptions, tricks*

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—**19** and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:18–20 (NKJV)

IV. A small church's unstoppable power -

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!" ' " Zechariah 4:6-7

1. What our POWER is NOT –

⁶ So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power,

Zerubbabel lacked power, he was a king in God's eyes, but Israel was a conquered nation, under the control of Persia. Under Persian rule he was not allowed the title king but rather he was governor.

Zerubbabel was not Solomon –

A. He lacked Solomon's gifts –

And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. ... 34 And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon. (1 Kings 4:29-34 NKJV)

B. He lacked Solomon's resources –

5 And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name." 6 Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon (1Kings 5:5-6 NKJV)

10 Then Hiram gave Solomon cedar and cypress logs according to all his desire. 11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty kors of pressed oil. Thus Solomon gave to Hiram year by year. (1Ki 5:10-11 NKJ)

22 The whole temple he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the temple; also he overlaid with gold the entire altar that was by the inner sanctuary. (1Kings 6:22 NKJV)

C. He lacked Solomon's title, power, prosperity and worldly fame –

"and his fame was in all the surrounding nations." 1 Kings 4:31

1 Kings 10 - Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. ... 4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. 6 Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 7 "However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. (1 Kings 10:1-7 NKJ)

Zerubbabel was not technically a King, He could not be because Israel was under control of Persia, his building was humble and by some despised –

3 `Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing? (Haggai 2:3 NKJV)

2. *What our power is, what Zerubbabel did have –*

... 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!" ' " Zechariah 4:6B -7 (NKJV)

He & We have God's Holy Spirit!

Consider how successful Zerubbabel would be -

2 In the seventh *month*, on the twenty-first of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying: ² "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying: ³ 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, *is this* not in your eyes as nothing? ⁴ Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I *am* with you,' says the LORD of hosts. ⁵ 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!' ⁶ "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it *is* a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ 'The silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine,' says the LORD of hosts. ⁹ 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts." Haggai 2:1–9 (NKJV)

Solomon's temple was great because of gold and physical glory! Zerubbabel's temple would be great because one day our Lord Jesus Christ would preach and teach in it!

3. *Zechariah is further told -*

⁸ Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

A. *Zerubbabel will certainly finish rebuilding the temple -*

⁹ "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. Zechariah 4:9 *God's providence is another thing His people HAVE!*

B. *There are certain "small things" that should not be despised, because they are BIG and glorious in God's eyes -*

¹⁰ For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth." Zechariah 4:10 (NKJV)

⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³ So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, "**Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.**" Mark 12:42–44 (NKJV)

C. *God's people, His servants will be close to Him, close enough to receive His help -*

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." Zechariah 4:1–14 (NKJV)

Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest – see Zechariah 3 and others like them see Revelation 5:9-10; we are the temple God dwells in Ephesians 2:19-22 & 3:14-21, God will provide!