

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 460 – Multiple Visions Through If Ye Diligently Obey (Zechariah 4:1-6:15)

1. What were the points made in Zechariah's vision of a candlestick, lamps, pipes, olive trees, etc.?

“(1) And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, (2) And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: (3) And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. (4) So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? (5) Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. (6) Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. (7) Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. (8) Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (9) The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. (10) For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth. (11) Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? (12) And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? (13) And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. (14) Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth” (Zechariah 4:1-14).

- The angel continues talking with Zechariah (**Zechariah 1:9; 1:19; 2:3; 3:1**).
- The angel woke him up “AS a man that is wakened...”. This does not mean Zechariah was literally asleep (i.e. **Psalms 78:65, Romans 13:11, and Ephesians 5:14**). “As” indicates this figure of speech is a simile. When someone was literally asleep, the language indicates that (**Mark 4:38**).
- Similes occur throughout the Scriptures. Here are a few examples: **Judges 6:1-6** (vs.5), **Psalms 37:1-2, Matthew 10:16, Matthew 13:31-33, Matthew 20:1-16, Matthew 28:1-4, I Peter 1:24, and II Peter 3:10**.
- Since there are figures of speech throughout the Scriptures, reason comes into play. Think about reasoning from the Scriptures (**Acts 17:1-2, Acts 18:4, and Acts 18:19**).
- The point is, not all things in the Scriptures are to be taken strictly literal (cf. **Deuteronomy 9:1, Judges 7:12, Job 19:6, Psalms 119:136, Matthew 5:29, Matthew 23:23-24, Romans 3:11, etc.**).

- In the next chapter, the same question is posed: “what seest thou” (**Zechariah 5:2**). Other prophets were asked the same question concerning visions (**Jeremiah 1:11**, **Jeremiah 1:13**, **Jeremiah 24:3**, **Amos 7:8**, and **Amos 8:2**).
- Zechariah did not understand what he was seeing (**vs. 4-5; 12-13**). As we saw with Daniel, the interpretation needed to be revealed to the prophet (**Daniel 7:15-16**; cf. **II Peter 1:20-21**).
- The eyes of the Lord that run to and fro the whole earth are further discussed later in these notes on **Zechariah 6:1-8**
- Zerubbabel was, not by his own power (**Haggai 2:1-5** and **Haggai 2:21-23**), going to rebuild the temple (**Ezra 3:8**) and finish it. As seen in studies of Ezra, the work had begun but was not finished (**Ezra 4:1-5:17**). Under Darius, that course was changed and the temple finished (**Ezra 6:1-18**).
- Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor were God’s chosen ones in this endeavor (**Haggai 1:12-14; 2:4**).

2. What was revealed in the vision of the flying roll?

*“(1) Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a flying roll. (2) And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits. (3) Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it. (4) I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof” (**Zechariah 5:1-4**).*

- The flying roll was a book, writing (Strong’s # 4039). Ex. **Jeremiah 36:2**, **Jeremiah 36:4**, **Jeremiah 36:6**, etc.
- This book was not small or handheld. It was approx. 30 feet long and 15 feet thick (if a cubit is about 18”).
- What was in the book was the curses that were going to go forth over the earth. Thus, implying by dimensions, a large number of curses (**Isaiah 24:1-6**).
- The curses get more specific as to identify the houses of thieves and those that swore falsely by the name of the Lord (**Malachi 3:5**). See: **Proverbs 3:33**

3. In the vision with the woman sitting in the midst of the ephah, what did the vision reveal was going to be built in the land of Shinar?

An house: *“(5) Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. (6) And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. (7) And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. (8) And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. (9) Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in*

their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. (10) Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? (11) And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base” (Zechariah 5:5-11).

- An ephah: “of Egyptian derivation; an ephah or measure for grain; hence, a measure in general: — ephah, (divers) measure(-s). Dry measure of quantity, equal to 3 seahs, 10 omers; the same as the liquid measure bath; (about 9 imperial gallons (40 l), rabbinical writings give sizes of one-half this amount) the receptacle for measuring or holding that amount” (Strong’s # 374).
- Shinar was a plain in Babylonia (Strong’s # 8152).
- Think about the Lord using measurements or the idea of weight in discussing wickedness (**Psalms 38:4** and **Matthew 23:32**).
- From one to then two women they bear the ephah in this vision. The end result, they went to build a house [contextually wicked] in the land of Babylonia. What would that ultimately mean - something that would eventually be overthrown (**Proverbs 14:11**).

4. What was told to Zechariah concerning his vision of the four chariots?

“(1) And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass. (2) In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; (3) And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses. (4) Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? (5) And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth. (6) The black horses which are therein go forth into the north country; and the white go forth after them; and the grisled go forth toward the south country. (7) And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth. (8) Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country” (Zechariah 6:1-8).

- The four chariots represented the four spirits of the heavens which went forth from standing before the Lord (**Job 1:6**, **Psalms 68:17**, **Ezekiel 1:4-28**, **Zechariah 1:10-11**, and **Acts 8:26-39**).
- The angel that talked with Zechariah cried [announced] upon Zechariah that the angels that went toward the north country had quieted his spirit. It may be that they saw the judgment of God on Babylon (**Isaiah 48:14** and **Jeremiah 51:48-49**).
- Angels were/are not all-knowing (**I Peter 1:9-12**).

5. Who was supposed to be crowned?

Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen: *“(9) And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (10) Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, which are come from Babylon, and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah; (11) Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest... (14) And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD” (Zechariah 6:9-11; 6:14).*

- The crowns were to be made from the silver and gold taken in captivity. That which was restored that is (**Ezra 1:5-11**).
- Josiah was a son of Zephaniah and “Hen” could have been another name for him [likely] or maybe a brother???
- The overall point is, God crowned these men to be leaders of His restoration of His people much like when Aaron and his sons were consecrated (**Leviticus 8:1-9**).

6. Who was going to grow up, build the temple of the Lord, and sit and rule on the throne?

The BRANCH: *“(12) And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: (13) Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both” (Zechariah 6:12-13).*

- We talked about Jesus, the BRANCH in **Zechariah 3:8**. The BRANCH is Jesus (**Isaiah 11:1-11** and **Jeremiah 33:14-17**; cf. **Luke 1:31-33**).
- The temple, the house that Christ built (**Matthew 16:13-19**, **I Corinthians 3:17**, **II Corinthians 6:14-7:1**, and **Hebrews 3:1-6**).
- Jesus upon the throne (**Matthew 19:28**, **Acts 2:30**, **I Timothy 6:14-15**, **Hebrews 1:8**, **Hebrews 12:1-2**, and **Revelation 3:21**).
- Jesus as the priest (**Hebrews 4:14-5:10**, **Hebrews 6:20-8:6**, and **Hebrews 9:1-10:22**).

7. What would it take for this message to come to pass?

Diligent obedience to the voice of the Lord: *“And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God” (Zechariah 6:15).*

- This passage can have various meanings. For one, Gentiles {far off} aided in the reconstruction of the temple (**Ezra 6:21-22**).
- Otherwise, one might also take this to **Ephesians 2:11-22** as prophesied in **Isaiah 60:1-11** because of verses 12-13 talking about Jesus.

- However, the wording of “if ye diligently obey...” really only makes sense to be of the current generation Zechariah is prophesying to. For, regardless of their obedience, Christ was going to come and establish His kingdom at the determined time (**Daniel 2:31-45, II Timothy 1:9, Titus 1:2, and I Peter 1:18-20**).
- Remember, some from Israel were dispersed, scattered because of their disobedience (**Deuteronomy 4:27, Jeremiah 31:10, Jeremiah 50:17, Ezekiel 5:12, Joel 3:8, and Zechariah 1:19**).