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ZECHARIAH THE PROPHET – LESSON 7

THE CANDLESTICK AND OLIVE TREES

Zechariah's fifth night vision (Zechariah Ch. 4) featured the symbolism of a candlestick bearing seven "lamps" and two olive trees. The candlestick (like a menorah) had a bowl on top full of olive oil. Each lamp had its own pipe feeding oil from the bowl to the burning lamp. Two olive trees, one on each side, fed a steady stream of oil into the bowl which supplied the lamps. Oil represents the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit) which moves on earth to accomplish the works of God.

The purpose was to declare that Zerubbabel, the governor, would complete the building of God's temple which had halted (stopped) fourteen years earlier due to enemy opposition. However, it would not be by any strength or might which Zerubbabel and the people had to complete it, but by the will of the Lord.

Zechariah 4:7 says that this "mountain" of opposition will be overcome, ***"Not by (your) might, nor by (your) power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord."*** Zerubbabel would lay the head stone (cornerstone) and also bring it to completion.

Zerubbabel was the legal heir to Israel's throne as the great grandson of King Jehoiakim and grandson of Jeconiah (Matthew 1:13), thus, in Jesus' legal line (through Joseph). A quirk of Jewish law in marriage (no room to explain) also inserted in the scriptures placed Zerubbabel into Jesus' blood line through Mary's lineage. Zerubbabel then is a fore type of Messiah in building God's temple (the church, the born-again followers of Jesus).

The two olive trees which supply the oil to the "lamps" represent, I believe, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is by their power and anointing that the church became the lamp to show light to the world. We are His temple, and we are told not to hide our light under a cover (bushel).

While the man Zerubbabel built the temple in his day, so it also shows the cornerstone upon which God's church (in Jesus) is built. We are that "temple."