

VISION #5 – THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

--ZECHARIAH 4:1-3--

INTRODUCTION:

In this fifth vision, Zechariah sees a lampstand and immediately understood the symbolism. The lampstand communicated the greatness of God's plan concerning His glorious light. It not only symbolized the presence of God but also expressed the role Israel and the temple would have in God's plan to overcome all darkness. The lampstand also pointed to the One true Light of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. This lampstand that Zechariah sees and describes was no ordinary lampstand. The uniqueness of it pointed to the extraordinary Messiah by whom God would fill the earth with His glory. This vision reveals to us the glorious theme of God's light and specifically the brilliant radiance of Jesus Christ.

I. THE STIRRING UP (Zechariah 4:1)

- a. The first three visions began by simply stating that Zechariah saw or that he _____ up his eyes and looked.
- b. Zechariah writes, "*Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and _____ me, as a man who is awakened from his sleep.*" (Zechariah 4:1, NASB95)
- c. Not only did this angel return but we are told that he roused the prophet to _____ him up to action, or at least to stir him to alertness.

II. THE LAMPSTAND (Zechariah 4:2a)

- a. After rousing the prophet, the angel drew Zechariah's _____ to what was before him in this new vision.
- b. First, he describes that he sees a _____, the Hebrew word is one we have heard, it is Menorah. (Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 42:6)
- c. Zechariah went on to describe that this lampstand in his vision, like the one in the tabernacle and the temple, it was made all of _____. (Revelation 2; Matthew 5:14–16)

III. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Zechariah 4:2b-3)

- a. As Zechariah continued describing what he was seeing in this vision he highlighted three _____ that made this lampstand unique from any lampstands he had seen before.
- b. First, the prophet tells us that the lamp was self-_____ with a bowl on the top of it. (Leviticus 24:1-4)
- c. Second, the lampstand was self-_____.
- d. Third, not only was this lampstand self-supplying and self-operating but also self-_____.
- e. Two major _____ can be drawn from what Zechariah has observed so far.
- f. First, the lampstand was truly exceptional, _____ to every other lampstand in Israel's history.
- g. The second major truth of this lampstand was its full _____.
- h. The question that must be answered is who will specifically achieve this? The answer is God's _____. (Isaiah 9:2; 49:5-6; Luke 2:32; John 8:12)

CONCLUSION:

This vision seen by Zechariah was a message to him and the people that the light of God's glory continues to shine. His presence is with His people, and one day His glory will fill the whole earth. The vision of the lampstand showed that God's sovereign purpose does not depend on any outside help, it will be accomplished. Christ came the first time as the Light of the world to save sinners. He will come again in unveiled glory to fill the earth with the light of His presence. So, what does this mean for us? Our Scripture reading this morning stated, "*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*" (Matthew 5:14–16, NASB95) Is your light hiding under a basket? Or are you letting it shine before men. We are not the Light, but a reflection of the Light, we must reflect the Light of the Son.