Zechariah 4:1-14

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 4:1–14*** (ESV)  
**1** And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. **2** And he said to me, “What do you see?” I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. **3** And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.” **4** And I said to the angel who talked with me, “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?” I said, “No, my lord.” **6** Then he said to me, “This is the word of YHWH to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says YHWH of hosts. **7** Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’ ” **8** Then the word of YHWH came to me, saying, **9** “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that YHWH of hosts has sent me to you. **10** For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. “These seven are the eyes of YHWH, which range through the whole earth.” **11** Then I said to him, “What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?” **12** And a second time I answered and said to him, “What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?” **13** He said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” I said, “No, my lord.” **14** Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.”

1. Chapter four presents the FIFTH vision of Zechariah. Review again the main points of the previous vision:  
   a) Introduction, Zech 1:-1-6  
   b) First Vision, “Man & horses in the myrtle trees”: Zech 1:7-17   
   c) Second Vision, “Four horns and craftsmen”: Zech 1:18-21 .   
   d) Third Vision & Oracle, “ Man with measuring line”: Zech 2  
   e) Fourth Vision, “Satan accuses the High Priest”: Zech 3
2. See if you can picture this lampstand that Zechariah saw. Sketch out how you think it may have looked.
3. Why would olive trees be next to a lampstand? What is the connection between olives and lamps?
4. Who is Zerubbabel? Read Haggai 1 (note verses Hag 1:1, 12, 14). What does the name Zerubbabel mean?
5. When did Zerubbabel and Yeshua begin work rebuilding the temple? When are these visions of Zechariah taking place? (Compare Hag 1:14-15 and Zech 1:7.
6. In verse 9, what will be the proof to the people that Zechariah’s message is from YHWH? There is a “near term” prophesy that the people will see happen, which should cause them to have faith that the “long term” prophesy will also come to take place, even though they will likely not be around to see it happen with their own eyes. What is that near-term prophesy in this case?
7. By what power will the temple be completed?
8. What is the significance of Zerubbabel bringing the “top stone” amid shouts of “Grace to it”?
9. How can the top stone can also be seen symbolically as representing the Messiah? Note, however, the difference between a “top stone” and a “cornerstone” (as referred to in Ps 118:22 and Isaiah 28:16).
10. What, if any, connection can we make between the top stone of Zech 4:8 and the stone of Zech 3:9?
11. In Zech 4:10 “these seven” are the eyes of YHWH which range through the whole earth. What seven is being referring to here? Seven what??
12. Look at Rev 5:6. What does that add to your understanding the “seven eyes” on the stone and/or the seven lamps on the lampstand?
13. From Zech 4:12, apparently the branches of the two olive trees are “connected” to the lampstand by two pipes or channels, by which the olive oil will flow from the trees to the lamp. The Hebrew actually says “from which gold is poured” not “from which golden oil is poured”. Why do you think the word “gold” is used instead of “oil”? See also Lev 24:1-4.
14. What does the lampstand symbolize? Consider what it represented to Zerubbabel during Zechariah’s time, and also what it represents in the bigger (eternal) picture. Note Lev 24:1-4, John 8:12, and Rev 22:5, as well as the discussion above regarding the meaning of the “seven lamps” and “seven eyes” above.
15. Who do you think the two olive trees represent in the time of Zechariah?
16. Recalling from Zech 3:8 that Yeshua and Zerubbabel were “men who are a sign”, and YHWH says he will bring his servant “the Branch”. The Branch seems to refer to the Messiah in the long-term fulfillment, but in the near-term fulfillment, it may refer to Zerubbabel. In what ways would Zerubbabel be seen as symbolic of the Messiah? What is the connection with the meaning of the Zerubbabel’s name and “the Branch”?
17. In Zech 4:14, the olive trees are said to stand for the “two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth”. In the near-term fulfillment, these two seem to be Yeshua the high priest and Zerubbabel. In the far-term fulfillment, they both seem to be symbolic of Yeshua the Messiah. Perhaps there is yet another level of symbolism in these “two olive trees”. Considering that Zechariah often seems to have the final day of YHWH in mind, look at the end-time prophesy of Rev 11:4 (and the rest of Rev 11). From this context, how are Yeshua and Zerubbabel “men who a sign” of things to come?
18. How would this vision have been received by the people of Zechariah’s time? Why would it have been an encouragement to them?
19. How does this prophetic vision encourage us today?