

THE GOLDEN BOWL

ZECHARIAH 4

(Outline # 12)

Meditation: *TM 509*

INTRODUCTION: This study reveals to us how we can come to a unified and proper understanding of the Scriptures, thereby empowering the church of God to fully manifest the righteousness of Christ and be the light of the world.

1. **Read:** Zech. 4:1-6,11-14.

Read and identify each part and function of the prophecy.

CANDLESTICK w/ SEVEN LAMPS (verse 2)

BOWL (verse 2)

SEVEN PIPES (verse 2)

TWO OLIVE TREES (Verse 2, 11-14)

TWO PIPES (Verse 12)

All items are of gold

2. **Purpose Of The Symbols:**

To keep the lamps burning by supplying them with sufficient oil. The prophecy, described with its various symbols (pipes, bowl, lamps, etc) are described as God's word— that through this system His Spirit is to finish the work, rather than power or might. (Verse 6).

3. **Source Of The Oil:** The two olive trees

- a. The trees represent the Bible—Old & New Testaments.
- b. Zech. 4:14 — they are the two anointed ones.
- c. Rev. 11:3,4 — they are the same as the two witnesses.
- d. *GC 267* — they are the two witnesses representing the Old and New Testaments.

4. **The Destination Of The Oil:** The candlestick or the seven lamps.

Rev. 1:20 — The seven candlestick (each having seven lamps), represent the seven churches of the New Testament. See also: *AA 585*, Matt. 6:14.

Summary: A candlestick or seven lamps represent God's church. Therefore, the purpose of the symbolism is to keep God's church ablaze with his word.

5. **What Keeps The Church Burning Brightly:**

The oil - the Holy Spirit of truth. Although traditionally we have accepted "oil" to be a symbol of the Holy Spirit, it is more specifically the Holy Spirit of truth— the word of God explained and used in the hearts of his people.

COMPARE:

TM 188 — the oil is the Holy Spirit.

TM 234 — the oil is the righteousness of Christ

TM 65 — the righteousness of Christ is pure unadulterated truth.

TM 337,338 — the oil is truth.

John 14:17

John 15:26

John 16:13

} the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of TRUTH.

Note: If the trees represent the Bible (Old and New Testaments) then what comes from the Bible?—REVEALED TRUTH. Since oil comes from the trees, then the oil must especially represent present-truth—truths needed for the time in which we live—the product of the Bible (trees).

6. **How Is The Oil Retrieved From The Scriptures?**

- a. Through the Two Pipes —the messengers with the gift of interpretation —the Spirit of Prophecy.
- b. Amos 3:7 — God's secrets are revealed through his prophets.
- c. TM 510 — the two pipes are human instrumentalities
- d. 2 Pet. 1:16-21 — no prophecy of the Scriptures is of private interpretation, but must be revealed in the same manner as it was given—by the Holy Spirit through human agents. See also 77 249.

Summary: The two pipes must be interpreters who alone can reveal the mysteries, symbols, and prophecies of the Bible. NOTE, that **ONLY** the **TWO PIPES** are allowed to go into the trees and withdraw oil—truth. That is, although some things are plain in the Bible, only God's inspired agents can accurately interpret the "prophecies of the Scripture" (2 Pet. 1:19-21) because it was dictated by God's Spirit and can only be interpreted by God's Spirit (Amos 3:7). Thus, the **TWO PIPES are a symbol of the prophets whom we now primarily recognize as: E.G. WHITE and V.T. HOUTEFF.**

7. **What Is The Bowl?**

The published works of the inspired messengers—the storehouse of their revealed truths.

Summary: It is from the bowl that the oil is stored and then retrieved to feed the lamps. Thus the bowl is a reservoir for the oil-revealed truth. From what reservoir do we find revealed truth? Is it not from the **WRITINGS** of the messengers whom God used to help us understand the Bible? —inspired interpreters, i.e., Sis. E.G. White.

8. **The Seven Pipes**

Summary: The seven pipes take oil from the bowl NOT FROM THE TREES. This shows that ministers and teachers are required to teach the Bible in light of revealed truths given to us by the messengers of God—they must teach the Bible in harmony with the inspired interpreters. They

are NOT to engage in private interpretation. They are therefore, to impart oil (truth) to the lamps (church) that is substantiated by Inspiration, and that truth is found only in the bowl (the inspired writings).

Unfortunately, most leaders are not teaching strictly from the bowl. They instead figuratively place their tubes into the trees (Bible) by teaching their own ideas and opinions. They ignore the parts of Inspiration which do not suit them. That is, they do not fully accept and teach the writings of Sis. White while refusing to accept advanced light—the Rod.

Conclusion: In order for the church of God to illuminate the world with the righteousness of Christ, it must accept the truths revealed from the Bible through the inspired messengers—E.G. White and V.T. Houteff (the Rod). We must accept all the truth given to us. Without it we cannot truly be the light of the world.

We also see that the Shepherd's Rod is the message of the hour. It came not by chance, but through the working of the Spirit to refill the bowl so the ministers can keep, the lamps (church) fed and burning brightly. Without it, the church's flames will go out. Now the lamps are flickering, so to speak.

But we can thank God that it will not be snuffed out because God has a people who are now striving to supply the oil (truth) to the membership (the lamps) and will culminate into a 144,000 Spirit-filled preachers without "guile in their mouths" (Rev. 14:4,5) and who will gather a great multitude (Rev. 7:9).

Further Study: 2 *SR* 283 – 289
6 *TR* 17-27 ("Why Perish")
1 *TG* 14 ("Timely Greetings")
3 *ANS* 28-40

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