By the Power of “My Spirit”
Zechariah 4:1-14

The blessing given to Abraham... (Genesis 12:1-4)

The basis for God choosing the Jew...

1. *To bring the Savior into the world...* (Genesis 12:3)
2. *To be a vehicle for transmitting God’s revelation...* (Isaiah 43:21; Deuteronomy 4:5-6).
3. *To be a witness for God among all peoples ...* (1 Chronicles 16:23; Psalm 96:3)

The blindness in part to Israel... (Romans 11:25,26; Isaiah 27:9; 59;20-21)

The basis of Zechariah’s fifth vision... To restore Israel so she fulfills all that God called her to be: the light of the world.

The Presentation of the Vision (4:1-3,12)

The picture before Zechariah... A golden seven tiered lampstand with a bowl above it containing oil that comes from two olive trees planted on each side of the lampstand; seven golden pipes from the bowl are each connected to one of the seven tiers of the lampstand (4:1-3); in verse 12 two gold pipes extend from the bowl to two olive branches that receive the oil from the two trees; there had been a golden lampstand in the temple that would burn continually but now there is no temple or lampstand.

The purpose of the lampstand... the lampstand will burn again; Israel will again be the light of the world; and that will be the workings of God by “My Spirit.”
The Purpose of the Vision (4:2-5,11-14)

The Lampstand (4:2)

The identification of the lampstand… The typical Jewish interpretation is that it represents the testimony of Israel as a nation under God.

The intent of the lampstand… For Israel to be the light of the world (Isaiah 49:5-6); that day will come, but when?

The introduction of two witnesses and the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 11:1-14; 7:1-8)... The two witness minister in the first half on the tribulation before being martyred (Revelation 11:1-14); the 144,000 witnesses are Jewish evangelists who may have been converted by the two witnesses and they are sealed with the seal of God so they cannot be killed (Revelation 7:1-8); today the Church is the light of Christ to the world (Revelation 1:20).

The Bowl with the Olive Oil (4:3,6)

The oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit... During the great Tribulation the Holy Spirit will flow on God’s covenant people Israel (4:6; 12:10; Joel 2:28-29).

The Two Olive Trees (4:3,11-14)

The designated of two Spirit-filled men during the first half of the Tribulation... The clue as to who they are is Revelation 11:3-4; in Revelation you have two olive trees and two lampstands; in Zechariah’s vision there is one lampstand; they represent the two witnesses who are martyred in the streets of Jerusalem and after 31/2 days ascend into heaven in a cloud (Revelation 11:7-12).

The description of the Spirit-filled men (Revelation 11:5-6)... In Zechariah’s day they were Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor; in Revelation they are most likely Moses and Elijah.

The declaration of the vision... God will not abandon His people; they will fulfill the purpose for which God entered into a covenant relationship with them; the lampstand is Israel as the light of the world; the two olive trees are the two Spirit-filled witnesses.
The Power in the Vision (4:6)

The plan of God for evangelism... This vision is dependent not on human strength, it is “not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit…”; the word “might” refers to an army or the strength of many; the word “power” refers to inherent strength in one person; true evangelism is done, not by personal strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8); all witnessing, to be effective must be done in the energy of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31); He convicts the unbeliever of sin (John 16:8); He testifies concerning who Jesus is (John 15:26); He guides us into all truth (John 16:13); He brings to remembrance the things Jesus said (John 14:26); He will give you what to say at the right time (Matthew 10:19-20); He calls the sinners to repentance (Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25); He enables us to believe Jesus is Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3).

True evangelism is not so much a matter of methodology, but a matter of the Holy Spirit being unleashed in hearts of God’s people.

The powerlessness of churches that deny the Personhood of the Holy Spirit... Many liberal churches speak of the Holy Spirit as an “it” or an “influence” but not as the third member of the Trinity; these are dying churches; Israel will one day receive the Spirit (Zechariah 12:10) and will become the light of the world, “not by might nor by power but by My Spirit, says the LORD.”

The Plan of the Vision (4:7-10)

The situation confronting Zerubbabel... Zechariah’s vision concerns Zerubbabel getting the temple built in spite of opposition; the temple will be completed by “My Spirit” and Zerubbabel will lay the capstone amid shouts of grace.

Zechariah speaks of a “great mountain” that will be flattened (v.7); in Ezra 4 we learn there were adversaries who fought the rebuilding of the temple; they were Assyrian Gentiles and Samaritans who claimed to worship Yahweh along with pagan gods (2 Kings 17:29,32-24,41); they fought the temple project in 3 ways: By asking to join the Jews in doing the project (Ezra 4:2); by discouragement (4:4); by hiring counselors to frustrate their purpose (4:5); they held up the work for 16 years; the voices of Haggai and Zechariah exhorted them to start work again on the temple (Ezra 5:1-5); even the governor of the region Tatteniai wrote a letter to King Darius of Persia to assist them in
stopping the temple (Ezra 5:6-17); in time the “great mountain” was removed and the cornerstone of the temple laid.

The solution for comforting Zerubbabel (4:8-10)... Darius found a scroll from King Cyrus that allowed the Jews to return to their homeland to rebuild the temple; so Darius ignored the letter from Tatteniai and he gave encouragement to resume the work (Ezra 6:1-6).

Darius aided the work by drawing money from the royal treasury to help finish the temple; it was completed in 516 BC; on the 14th day of the month they celebrated Passover and Unleavened Bread (Ezra 6:19-22)

Older Jews who had seen Solomon’s temple were disappointed in Zerubbabel’s temple; it was not as big and magnificent; they were not shouting “Grace” (Ezra 3:12-13; Haggai 2:3); God told them,” Who has despised the day of small things… (v.10a).

The Purpose of the Vision

The point of learning for the Church... God has temporarily removed the lampstand from Israel and given it to the Church; we are to reflect Christ who is “the light of the world” (John 8:12; see 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:13).

The plan of God to have the light of Christ within...

1. It concerns the manner of our life (Philippians 2:15).
2. It concerns the motive of our efforts (Matthew 5:15-16).
3. It concerns the message of our proclamation (1 Peter 2:9).
4. It concerns the matter of our understanding (2 Corinthians 4:3-5).
5. It concerns the method of our walk (1 John 1:5-7).

The power to let our light shine... Our light is fueled by the Holy Spirit.

1. He woos us to repentance (John 16:8)
2. He is the means of the “new birth” (John 3:3-5)
3. He secures and seals our salvation (Romans 8:15-16; Ephesians 1:13-14).
4. He warns us about sin (Ephesians 4:30).
5. He gives us victory over sin (Romans 8:13; Ephesians 2:1).
6. He develops our character (Galatians 5:22-23).
7. He sanctifies us (Romans 15:16).
8. He gives us access into God's presence (Ephesians 2:18).
9. He intercedes for us before God's throne (Romans 8:26-27).
10. He teaches us the Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:13-14).
11. He leads us in the way of righteousness (Romans 8:14).
12. He gifts us for ministry (Romans 12:6-8)
13. He sheds God's love abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5).
15. He gives us power to witness (Acts 1:8).

To accomplish great things for God, it is “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’” says the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6). Amen!