

**BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
POWER FOR GOD'S WORK
ZECHARIAH 4:1-14**

Introduction

Have you ever had to **LIVE WITHOUT POWER** for an extended time?

My wife and I have experienced extended **POWER OUTAGES** from ice storms in both Tennessee and Indiana. 3 days each time. I can tell you from experience that was way too long!

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Is there anybody here who recalls when electricity first came to your part of the country? If so, you remember what life was like before light bulbs, and electric refrigerators, and air conditioners.

You hear people say, *"I don't think I could make it without my air-conditioner"* and those folks say, *"Oh yeah, you could."* That's because they lived for a time without electrical **POWER** when there was none.

Yes, one can live **WITHOUT POWER**. The Amish choose to live that way. But why would someone want to live **WITHOUT POWER** when **POWER** is available?

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Some **BELIEVERS** seem to live **POWERLESS** lives. They have electricity in their homes, and drive gas powered cars. But they seem to live with no **SPIRITUAL POWER** from **GOD** working in their life!

They live as if they have **NO POWER** to resist temptation, **NO POWER** to defeat worry or discouragement, **NO POWER** to face the hard challenges of life. Instead of **GOD'S STRENGTH**, they feel their own weakness. Instead of enjoying **VICTORY**, they seem hopelessly defeated.

But the **BIBLE** says that if **JESUS CHRIST** lives in you, all of **HEAVEN'S POWER** is available to you! But you have to put that **POWER** to work!

Tonight from *Zechariah 4*, I want to help us all to do that. I want to show three truths about how we to put **GOD'S POWER** to work in our life:

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The message from *Zechariah 4* is **"POWER FOR GOD'S WORK."**

I. GOD'S POWER COMES BY HIS SPIRIT! (Vs. 1-6)
This is the **PROPHET'S 5th VISION FROM GOD** to the **JEWISH EXILES** rebuilding the **TEMPLE**. It's mainly addressed to **ZERUBBABEL**, their ruler. (Remember the last vision was for **JOSHUA THE HIGH PRIEST**.)

GOD tells **ZERUBBABEL** that the **POWER** he needs in order to do this work of building the **TEMPLE** only comes from **GOD'S SPIRIT!**

After having received the first 4 visions from **GOD**, apparently **ZECHARIAH** had drifted off to sleep. But the angel wakes him up, and asks him, *"What seest thou?"*

He responds there in *verse 2* saying that he sees a **CANDLESTICK** of solid **GOLD**. Its seven branches are fed **OIL** from a **BOWL** at the top, which apparently is fed by two **OLIVE TREES** on either side of the **CANDLESTICK**. This reminds him of the **GOLDEN CANDLESTICK** (*Hebrew Menorah*) that stood in the **TABERNACLE** and the original **TEMPLE**.

That's what **ZECHARIAH** sees but he's not sure what it means. So he asks the **ANGEL**, who seems to think **ZECHARIAH** already knows the answer. But he explains it all to him in *vs. 6 (read)*.

Numerous speculations have been made about the interpretation. Most of them don't agree. Some say the **ANGEL** doesn't really interpret the **VISION**; others say you have to skip some verses before he actually explains what **ZECHARIAH** sees.

I'm not a Hebrew scholar, but I believe the key to understanding this **VISION** is to relate it to the **CONTEXT** of the **PROPHECY**.

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First of all, we must remember that this MESSAGE is addressed to ZERUBBABEL, the GOVERNOR, the LEADER of the JEWISH EXILES.

This **PROPHECY** had both a **PRESENT ASPECT** of fulfillment as well as a **FUTURE ASPECT**.

First, GOD wants to encourage ZERUBBABEL as he leads these people in rebuilding the TEMPLE. They had been thwarted time and time again in their efforts to build the **TEMPLE**. So, **GOD** tells him **this work cannot be done by mere HUMAN STRENGTH, POWER, or PROWESS.**

He will need GOD'S POWER to do this work, and that means he will need GOD'S SPIRIT. Now understand that **GOD'S POWER** by **GOD'S SPIRIT** is necessary to successfully do anything for **GOD!**

Now, fast forward to our day. **Presently, ISRAEL is building a state based on the STRENGTH of POLITICS, NEGOTIATIONS, and MILITARY POWER.** But we know that these things will not lead to their goal of being reestablished peacefully in the **LAND OF ISRAEL** with their original borders intact.

ISRAEL bears witness to **BIBLE PROPHECY FULFILLMENT!** When the **JEWISH STATE** was reestablished in 1948, it instituted the **GOLDEN CANDLESTICK** (*the menorah*) with an **OLIVE BRANCH** on either side as its state emblem.

Also, standing in front of the **KNESSET**, the **POLITICAL PARLIAMENT** and **SEAT OF ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT**, is a great seven-armed **CANDLESTICK** (*menorah*) engraved with these words of *Zechariah 4:6*.

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This is an unconscious, but **PROPHETIC SIGN** that **ISRAEL** is being drawn nearer to the **FULFILLMENT** of the last of **BIBLICAL PROPHECIES.**

While presently **ISRAEL'S** focus is primarily directed on **POLITICS, POWER,** and her **ARMED FORCES,** the **FOCUS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS** is only on the **MESSIAH.** **ISRAEL'S** future—her **RIGHTEOUSNESS,** her **PEACE** under the lordship of the **MESSIAH,** and the final new **TEMPLE** can never come about by military force, but only through **GOD'S SPIRIT!**

Some say the **CANDLESTICK** represents the **TEMPLE.** Some say the **CANDLESTICK** represents **MESSIAH.** Well, since the **TEMPLE** represents the dwelling place of the **LORD,** both are true.

The **OIL** of the **CANDLESTICK** is a familiar **BIBLICAL** symbol of the **HOLY SPIRIT.** Since the **CANDLESTICK** represented the **LORD,** the **PRIESTS** were to make sure it was ever burning.

What the **ANGEL** is saying to **ZERUBBABEL** is: Just as the **LAMP** must have **OIL** flowing in it to shine its light, so you must have **MY SPIRIT** if you want **MY POWER** working in your life!

We can only have GOD'S POWER by HIS SPIRIT. JESUS told HIS DISCIPLES before HE ASCENDED: Acts 1:8—“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...”

To have GOD'S POWER means you have the SPIRIT working in your life. How do you do that?

First of all, you must RECEIVE THE SPIRIT. This happens when you get **SAVED!**

Romans 8:9—“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be

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that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

If you are a **BELIEVER**, the **HOLY SPIRIT** already lives in you! You don't have to pray **HIM** in, or beg **HIM** to come in—**HE'S** already there! **HIS POWER** is already in you!

HE wants to work in you and through you, but in order for that to happen, you also must also *"...be filled with the Spirit"* Eph 5:18.

To be **FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT** means to be **CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT**, that is, to **SURRENDER YOUR LIFE** to **HIS DIRECTION and LEADING!**

That happens as you **OBEY GOD'S WORD** and **FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM** in the **WORD** and **PRAYER**.

Being filled with the **SPIRIT** does not mean speaking in tongues, doing weird things, or always following your *"holy hunches."*

While it is true the **SPIRIT** does lead us in many ways, we must always be careful! It's very easy to dress up our own desires as the **LEADING OF THE SPIRIT!** But when we are **LED BY THE SPIRIT**, that's when the **SPIRIT OF GOD** works in our life!

Does **GOD'S SPIRIT** live in you? Then **GOD'S POWER** also lives in you! Are you being **LED BY THE SPIRIT?** That's the difference between having **GOD'S POWER** working in you, or living powerless.

Many years ago a man who lived far out into the country decided to

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get power connected to his home. On the day the power company came and hooked the wires from the pole to the house, a friend came to see the man, and asked him why he hadn't turned on the lights yet. "Well," the old fellow replied, "I wanted to be sure and give the electricity plenty time to get here from uptown to my house."

We don't have to wait to access **GOD'S POWER!** If we are **SAVED**, then **HIS SPIRIT** lives in us now! We've got the **POWER**—all we must do is use it!

With all the **POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** working in our life, what can we do?

II. NO TASK IS TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL FOR GOD'S POWER! (Vs. 7-10)

Different **WORK** requires different amounts of **POWER**. Some things in your house run off of 120 volts, others run off of 220 volts.

If you want to tow a canoe, you can probably use almost any vehicle to do it, but if you want to tow a fifth wheel travel trailer, you'll need a lot more horsepower than the average vehicle has!

Different **WORK** requires different amounts of **POWER**. But the beautiful thing about **GOD'S POWER** is that **HE IS OMNIPOTENT!** **GOD** can handle it all! No task is too big or too small for **HIM!**

A. GOD'S POWER Can Handle Big Tasks!
ZERUBBABEL and his friends faced some *"mountain-sized"* problems while rebuilding the **TEMPLE**.

In **ZERUBBABEL'S** day, just like today, **ISRAEL** was surrounded by many enemies, each one bent on **ISRAEL'S** destruction!

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There were also, no doubt, the usual complainers and naysayers among the builders themselves. It was not easy, and I'm sure there had to have been times when even **ZERUBBABEL** felt like just giving up!

That's why **GOD** spoke to the "*mountains*" threatening to defeat Zerubbabel in vs. 7. (*read*)

Vs. 9 says **ZERUBBABEL** started the job and would finish the job and that would prove that **GOD** had sent **HIS WORD** through **ZECHARIAH**!

No *mountain* would stand in the way; because no task is too big for **GOD'S POWER**!

GOD'S POWER Can Handle Big Tasks!

B. GOD'S POWER Can Handle Small Things And Even Make Great Things Out Of Small! (*Vs 10a*)

"For who hath despised the day of small things?"

There were some who had! (*Cf. Haggai 2:3-9*)

Seven is the number of perfection, and the seven eyes of the **LORD** represent **HIS OMNISCIENCE**—i.e. **HIS all-seeing and all-knowingness**.

GOD would have **ZERRUBBABEL** finish the work!

The **LORD WHO** sees everything, sees **ZERUBBABEL** with the plumb line putting the finishing touches on the **TEMPLE** and those that didn't think it would happen or that it wouldn't amount to anything **REJOICING**!

This job that seemed so small and insignificant had a big place in **GOD'S PLANS**!

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Many would worship **GOD** in this **TEMPLE**; many would come to remember how **GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE** and brought **HIS PEOPLE** back home. And, most importantly, the **MESSIAH HIMSELF** would adorn this **TEMPLE** by **HIS** very presence in the flesh!

This "*small thing*" as some called it would have a big impact in **GOD'S** scheme of things! **GOD'S POWER** and **PRESENCE** can show up in even the "*smallest*" things!

How does GOD'S POWER need to work in your life?

Maybe it's a big task: *Changing a heart; repairing a relationship, healing a hurt, coming up with money to pay your bills.*

Or maybe it seems like a small task: *motivating you to pray more, or come to Church more faithfully, or helping you be more merciful or forgiving.*

Ever how we need **GOD'S POWER** to work in our lives, we need to remember this: **no task is too big for HIM to handle AND no task is too small for HIM to notice!** **GOD'S POWER**, working through **HIS SPIRIT**, is always enough to handle whatever our need or problem may be!

What task do you need **GOD'S POWER** to handle tonight? Don't be afraid to bring it to **HIM!** **HIS POWER** is always enough to do whatever needs to be done!

GOD'S POWER COMES BY HIS SPIRIT...NO TASK IS TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL FOR GOD'S POWER!

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III. GOD'S POWER WORKS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE!

(Vs. 11-14)

POWER has to be channeled to do any good. Electrical **POWER** is channeled through wires to a transformer on a pole, and then through that transformer to wires in your home. The wiring is the channel, the conduit, the instrument through which the power flows.

GOD'S POWER, by HIS SPIRIT, also uses a conduit, a channel, an instrument through which HIS POWER flows—US!

HIS SPIRIT and HIS POWER work through HIS PEOPLE! That is the point of *vs. 11-14*.

ZECHARIAH is still curious about the two olives trees, and so he questions his angelic host, who again seems to think **ZECHARIAH** should already know. But he goes on to explain in **verse 14**.

Now, let's think about the context again. People were **ANOINTED** in **ISRAEL** to set them apart for some special mission for **GOD!**

KINGS were ANOINTED, PRIESTS were ANOINTED, PROPHETS were ANOINTED—all with OIL, as a SIGN of the SPIRIT and a SIGN they were CHOSEN BY GOD to serve HIM!

Now understand that these two olive branches have a three-fold PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE:

A. During ZECHARIAH'S Day, They Represent ZERUBBABEL And JOSHUA—ZERUBBABEL was ANOINTED as ISRAEL'S RULER and JOSHUA was ANOINTED as ISRAEL'S HIGH PRIEST.

In the immediate scheme of things, these two **OLIVE TREES** represent these two men, through whom the **HOLY SPIRIT** (the **OIL**) flowed into the **TEMPLE!**

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Their offices of **KING** and **PRIEST** are both united and fulfilled in the **MESSIAH, the LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

They were channels of **GOD'S SPIRIT** and **HIS POWER** to complete the rebuilding of the **TEMPLE!**

GOD'S SPIRIT still seeks people through which **HIS POWER** can flow to accomplish **HIS PURPOSES!**

B. Presently These Two ANOINTED Ones Refer To The CHURCH—Comprised of KINGS and PRIESTS who are indwelt by SPIRIT and are to be conduits of HIS SPIRIT!
(Revelation 1:6)

C. In The Future, They Point To The Two Witnesses Of Revelation 11:3-4.

Conclusion

Throughout the **BIBLE**, the **HOLY SPIRIT** works through people— People who stand with the **LORD** of the whole earth, who are **FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT**, who are not only willing but eager to do **GOD'S WORK** in this world.

You don't have to be a preacher. You don't have to be perfect or sinless. All you have to do is **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**, and eager to do **GOD'S WILL** wherever you are!

The **HOLY SPIRIT** is still looking for people through which **GOD'S POWER** can be demonstrated to this world. **HE'S** looking for young or old, single or married, rich or poor, man or woman- **HE** can use anybody! Could it be you **HE'S** looking for?

The question is: **Will you be a person who is FULLY and WHOLLY CONSECRATED TO GOD?**