

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
11TH ANNIVERSARY
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I. The Promise of a rebuilt temple

Zec 4:1-7 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. 2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. 3 Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." 4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "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?" And I said, "No, my lord." 6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. 7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

- A. God uses the symbol of a lampstand to illustrate the rebuilding of the temple with ceaseless worship and prayer.
- B. This lampstand is unique in that the oil that sources the lampstand isn't of any human origin it's from heaven. In other words the lampstand is built and burning by God's desire (Zech 4:6, 12).
- C. God's promise of "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit" pertains specifically to building the temple and more broadly to the worship and prayer movement that will cover the earth.

II. The Promise of a global worship movement

Mal 1:11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts.

- A. Malachi's prophecy undoubtedly came as a shock to the Jews dwelling in Jerusalem at the time. He essentially tells them that God is going to shut the doors on the temple and replace temple worship for a season with large numbers of gatherings of Gentile believers all across the earth.
- B. As we consider the massive numbers of worship and prayer ministries around the world our hearts should be called to attention. It's evident that we are living in the hour of which Malachi prophesied.
- C. God had given the nation a lampstand, but because of inattention and lack of intimacy He promised to remove the lampstand, which He ultimately did in 70 A.D. with the Roman siege Jerusalem.

III. The Symbol of a lampstand

A. Throughout the bible God uses the symbol of a lampstand to speak of several things:

1. Individual Communities of faith (Zech 4:1-7, Rev 1:20)
2. Individual's ministry to the Lord (Rev 11:4)
3. The interchange of love between Himself and His people (Lev 24:3, Mat 25:1-13, Mat 5:14), individually and corporately.
4. Every individual has a lamp. Every community has a lampstand. The Lord is the one who plants lampstands.

B. The most critical aspect of the lampstand, however, is not the fire it's the oil. God turns oil into fire (passion). But without oil there can be no fire.

C. Oil is intimacy. Oil is what enables the fire to burn even in darkness. In times of trial and temptation intimacy with God will sustain the fire in your heart.

D. Jesus' words to the church of Ephesus serve as a potent reminder that intimacy with Him is the most critical thing. Oil is so important to Jesus that He promises to remove a lampstand that doesn't have oil.

Rev 2:2-5 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

E. When God gives you a corporate lampstand, tend it gratefully and stay alive in love with Him to see that the lampstand keeps burning brightly.