

Zechariah 4: The Golden Bowl

Overview: This study reveals how we can come to a unified understanding of the scriptures so that God can empower the church to fully reflect the character of Christ and be a light to the world.

Questions to be addressed:

- What is the meaning of all the symbols; trees, oil, pipes, tubes, bowl, candlesticks?
- How is truth brought from the Bible to the church through inspired channels?
- How do we avoid following private opinions and fables regarding God's Word?

Scripture Reading: Zech. 4:1-6, 11-14 (See chart on page 3)

What is the Purpose of Using Symbols?

- Symbols are used to illustrate how God keeps the lamps burning by supplying them with sufficient oil. This prophecy describes how God's word, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, will finish the work through this system rather than by power or might.

What is the Source of the Oil?

- **GC 267** — The two Olive trees represent the Old and New Testaments.
- **Zech. 4:14** — two anointed ones
- **Rev. 11:3-4** — two witnesses

What is the Destination of the Oil?

- The candlestick or seven lamps — symbolizing the church.
- **Rev. 1:20** — The seven candlesticks represent the seven churches in the NT era (see chart "The Seven Churches" on page 3). This symbolism reveals how God keeps the church ablaze with the light of His word.

What keeps the church burning brightly?

- The oil.

What does the oil represent?

- **TM 188** — the Holy Spirit
- **TM 233-34** — the righteousness of Christ
- **TM 65** — Christ's righteousness is pure, unadulterated truth.
- **TM 337-38** — the oil is the truth
- **GC 427** — "A Knowledge of the truth of the scriptures."
- **Jn 14:17, 15:26, 16:13** — the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.
- **COL 408** — God's grace

Special Note: Since the trees represent the Bible then what comes from the Bible? Revealed Truth — It must represent special truths needed for the time in which we live to prepare us for the crisis ahead.

For questions or more information, please contact us at: hosea21@gmail.com or ph: 860 798-3672 © upa7.org

How is the oil retrieved from the scriptures?

Through the two pipes — messengers that have the gift of interpretation, the Spirit Of Prophecy.

- **Deut. 29:29** — Secret things belong to God.
- **Amos 3:7** — God's secrets are revealed by His servants the prophets.
- **TM 510** — the two pipes are human instrumentalities.
- **2 Pet. 1:19-21** — how God reveals truth through the human agent.
- The two pipes must represent inspired interpreters who alone can reveal the secret things of God. Only the two pipes are allowed to bring forth truths from the two trees. Since the scriptures were dictated by God's Spirit they can only be revealed by the same Spirit.

Who do the two pipes represent?

- **TM 475, 6T 17, 420.3** — Ellen G. White and someone that she predicted is to come in the spirit and power of Elijah, Victor T. Houteff.

What does the golden bowl represent?

- The published works of inspired messengers — the storehouse of present truth.
- It is from the Bowl that the oil is stored and then brought to feed the lamps. Thus the Bowl is the reservoir of revealed truth.

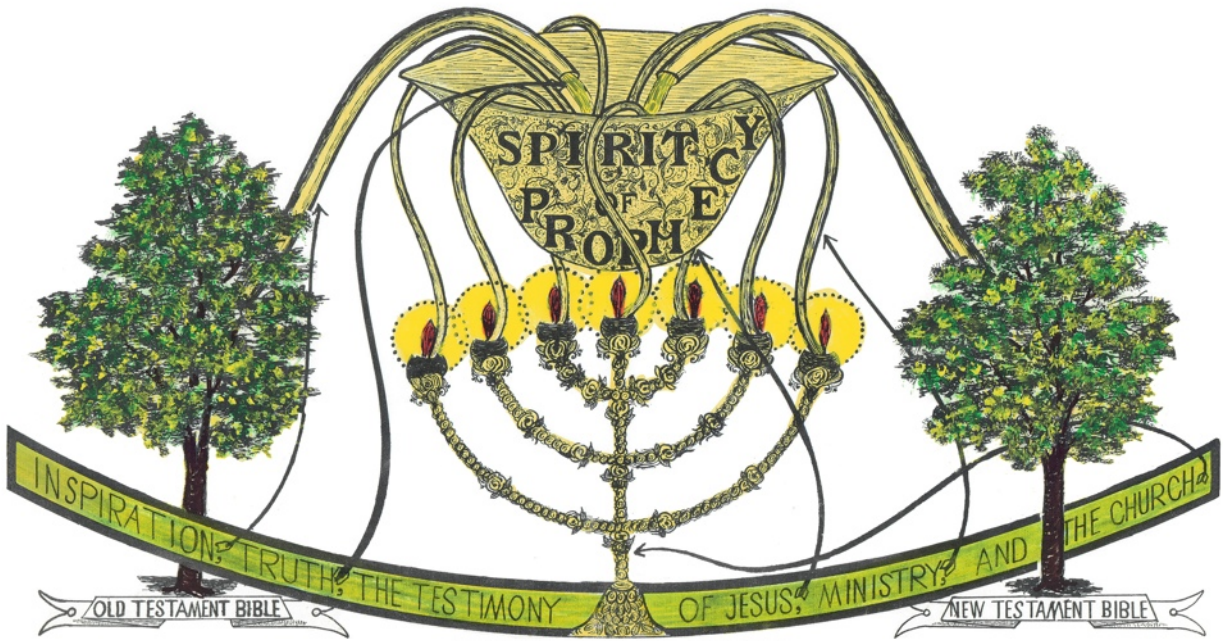
What are the seven pipes?

- **TM 188** — With the oil God's ministers are supplied to feed the church.

Summary: The seven pipes take oil from the bowl, *not* from the trees. This shows that ministers/teachers are required to teach the Bible in the light of revealed truth given to us by the messengers of God. They must teach the Bible in harmony with the inspired interpreters. Thus, this amazing prophecy reveals God's perfect system for revealing truth to the church without being corrupted by the private opinions of men.

Further Study: [Tract No. 6, Why Perish](#)

Dangers in turning away from the Spirit of Prophecy: 5 T 98.2, 672; 1 SM 45.3, 48.



ZECHARIAH FOUR

