

# EVANGELIZING

## In Tough Times

An Art of Taleh Mini-Study



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ISSUE NO. 3

# A Mini-Study on Zechariah 4:11-14

## OVERVIEW

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# The Passage

11 Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?"

12 And a second time I answered and said to him, "What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?"

13 He said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord."

14 Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."



# THE OUTLINE

In the Art of Taleh, our first approach to a Bible passage is to study it sentence by sentence.

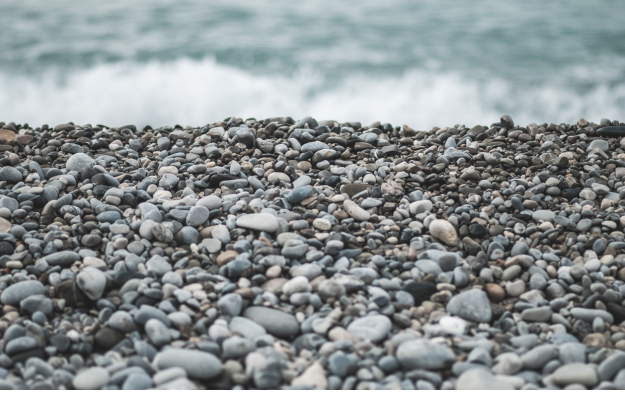
To do this, we want you to work through Zechariah 4 and, as you go, summarize each verse in no more than 5 words.

- 11: \_\_\_\_\_
- 12: \_\_\_\_\_
- 13: \_\_\_\_\_
- 14: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Few Questions

Let's take a quick moment to look at Zechariah 4 as a whole. Read the whole chapter once through and then answer the following questions.

1. Zechariah 4 is full of symbols, including a lampstand and two olive trees. Read through this passage and think about what these objects might symbolize.
2. The golden lampstand appears in other parts of the Bible too. Read Exodus 25:31 and consider what the connection might be between that lampstand and the one in Zechariah 4.
3. There are also hints of adversity and difficulties in Zechariah 4. Can you find them? What do they mean?



They will ensure that the temple is rebuilt and, in fact, it happened. Just three years after this vision, in 516 B.C., the temple was rebuilt.

But, at the same time, the reality of this passage is for Christians today. Because of what Christ has done, Christians are now the two olive trees. We have become the two olive trees because, like Joshua and Zerubbabel, we take on both priestly and royal identities in Christ.

Listen to Peter in 1 Peter 2:9: Because of what Christ has done, He has transformed us into a royal priesthood. Do you see the fusion of the two roles? We become priestly kings. John also says this in Revelation 1:5-6. Jesus' death on the cross turned us into royalty and into priests, and as such we continue the work of building the new temple of God throughout the earth today.

## DEVOTION

BY AARON AND MICHELLE REYES

**Zechariah 4:11-14 is all about God empowering his servants to build his temple in tough times.**

There is a lot of symbolism and at first glance this passage is hard to understand. So, we want to make it simple for you: the lampstand symbolizes the temple of God and the olive trees are God's people. The image of the olive trees pouring into the lampstand is a representation of God's servants building his temple, specifically through trials and tribulations. Now, let's unpack this...

There are two realities that exist within this passage. The first reality is when the book of Zechariah was written: 520/21 B.C. During this time, the exile was now over and Joshua the High Priest along with Zerubbabel, who is of royal descent, had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Thus, these two olive trees represent Joshua and Zerubbabel. In the vision, the two olive trees fuel the lamps to burn in the same way that Joshua and Zerubbabel fuel the rebuilding of the temple. They are the ones to take charge.



# DEVOTION

And the way we build God's temple is by preaching the gospel and making disciples. Let me say that again: the way we build God's new temple is by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are to call people to repent of their sins and trust in Jesus. There is no other way we build God's temple.

But, often times, we don't that. Sometimes, we prefer to play it safe and just hit cruise control in our Christian walk. Other times, our evangelism struggles because of adversity. But let me remind you that the church, as God's spiritual temple on earth, is to draw its power from the Spirit, the divine presence, before God's throne in its drive to stand against the resistance of the world. Despite resistance, the Christian community's successful establishment as God's temple throughout the church age is assured by means of the Spirit's empowerment of the church's faithful, prophetic witness.

**We can build God's temple because He will empower us by His Spirit. So, let's get to work. Let's get after it. Let's do this for God's glory and our joy.**



# Reflection

1. In your own words, how would you summarize Zechariah 4:11-14?
2. How exactly does a symbolic passage about a golden lampstand and two olive trees relate to you today?
3. Looking ahead, can you make any theological connections between Zechariah 4 and Revelation 11?
4. Finally, what encouragement can you receive from this passage about the need for evangelism and the reality of trials?