

Zechariah 4:1-10

By His Spirit

(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)

The inventor of the sewing machine was a man named Elias Howe, and Mr. Howe was helped by a dream...

A) A typical sewing needle is threaded opposite its point and the thread is pulled through the garment.

B) This wasn't going to work in Howe's machine. He couldn't figure out where to place the needle. Elias was running out of money and ideas...

C) Then one night he had a dream. A king had ordered his execution for failing to invent a sewing machine.

1) Soldiers were escorting him to the gallows, when he noticed they had strange spears in their hands.-

2) The spears were pierced near the point.

D) Instantly, Howe knew how...

1) He raced to his workshop, and by morning had the first sewing machine up and running.

E) Ladies, next time you sit at a sewing machine remember the seam your sewing was made possible by the dream of Elias Howe...

The Prophet Zechariah also had a dream.

A) And it was his dreams that helped the Jews rebuild their nation and reconstruct their Temple.

B) Zechariah along with Haggai and Malachi – was one of the three Post Exilic Prophets –

1) Writing Post Exile to THE REMNANT

C) Here's the background... After 70 years in Babylon – The Persian King Cyrus – issued a decree – Go back rebuild

D) Led by Governor Zerubbabel, and the High Priest Joshua 50,000 Jews, returned to the land of Judah to resurrect the nation Israel...

Before you think – 50K sounds like a lot – not really when you consider that there were close to 1 million in Exile

A) So Why only 50k? The rest were used to living in Babylon/Persia – no longer slaves – shops and homes – they had settled.

B) This group of 50K wanted to see worship restored

1) Willing to take a step of faith out of their comfort zones – see God do something – Great!

C) I want to be that type of Person – I want us to be that type of Church –

1) But this is what I have learned about steps of faith!

Just because God is in it and leading doesn't mean it will be SMOOTH SAILING

A) Always opposition – the enemy wants to come against it at every turn!

B) There will be road blocks and set backs –

1) and what we do during those times will be the true test of faith –

2) And often times the true Revelation of the Power of God!

The problem we have seen with the people of Judah was when the opposition came - they caved in.

A) They quit-They got discouraged and side tracked

B) and turned their attention from the work of God to THEMSELVES.

1) That is right where the enemy wants us – SELF FOCUSED! –

C) Devil knows – Might not be able to bring you to hell with Him! –

1) But he wants to keep you from affecting anyone else.

D) One of the chief ways he seeks to do that is to get us focused on us – Our needs – our problems – our stuff –

That is exactly what happened to the people of Judah

A) They turned their attention from building God's house to re-building their homes

B) Major expensive remodels that required all of their time and resources –

C) They no longer had time to finish the work on God's house – **and 16 years went by.**

They got used to worshipping God amongst the rubble – they didn't even see it anymore!

A) And after 16 years of this, God sent them messages from the prophets Haggai and Zechariah-

B) they could not have approached the assignment from God differently

1) Haggai is Older – He is short and to the point – second shortest book in all of the OT

C) He gets out there says what he means and means what He says –

1) He hammers the people with the in your face Word- **And the people responded**

D) Zechariah is completely different- His help comes from a series of Dreams

1) It would be a night that Zechariah would never forget

In one night God gave the prophet a sequence of eight dreams.

A) One stunning vision after another kept waking him up.

B) God worked on Zechariah like a loaded pizza from Dominos

C) All through the night the poor guy's mind was dancing with wild, **bizarre, off-the-chain images.**

1) Extra-strength Nyquil couldn't keep him asleep.

D) What Zechariah saw was not just a dream.

1) It was a series of **real-life messages** that God would fulfill over the course of history.

E) **THESE VISIONS** are very mystical, book of Revelation type,- get into Next Wed Night

What I like about Zechariah and his visions and prophecies – very encouraging,

A) Yes, Israel had been torn, but God shows Zechariah how He'll **stitch up** the nation's **seams** make strong again.

B) Some of the visions offered immediate encouragement to Zerubbabel.

C) Others looked to the future. God wanted the builders to know their work was not in vain.

1) They were setting the stage for a glory yet to come.

But the most important and impacting of all of those 8 visions – is found here in chapter 4

A) I really believe this is one of the most important passages in all the Bible for believers in Jesus

B) Especially those who want to serve Him –

C) Zechariah chapter 4 breaks down into three easy parts that we will consider this morning

- Chapter 4:1-4 – The vision
- Chapter 4:5-7 – The meaning
- Chapter 4:8-10 – The Application

D) Let's consider each one by one

The Vision - Zechariah 4:1-4

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?"

In this Dream Zechariah sees an automated Menorah.

A) A Jewish Menorah is a seven branch lamp stand that burns with olive oil.

B) A long process - lots of work - went into lighting the Temple Menorah.

1) Olives had to be grown and harvested.

C) They had to be crushed and the oil extracted. The menorah was then filled and tended by the priest.

1) But none of this applies to the menorah Zechariah sees.

D) There's piping that runs from the olive trees into a bowl and onto the lamps.

1) No harvest is required. No crushing of the olives. No priest.

E)The lamp is supernaturally supplied.

1)The oil drips into the bowl and flows to the individual wicks, without any human intervention!

This would have been wonderful for the priest, no more striving, no more sweating, just keeps getting refilled – great

A)Be like a dream of spider monkeys who come out of the cabinets and clean the house every night after you go to bed

B)Spider monkeys? Bad idea – Little Mice – quit while I am Behind.

1)Something I ate Last night!

C)Dreams Weird – Teeth – Spiders – Courson
There was a point to this dram: the Menorah which gave light to the whole temple, no longer being maintained by the sweat of Zechariah's brow

A)But what did it mean – God asks Zechariah if he knows and I love his honesty, nope, no clue,

B)Next comes the meaning of the vision

#2 The Meaning – Zechariah 4:5-7

⁵Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.”

⁶So 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)Remember the People were discouraged with the temple they were supposed to build

B)It was smaller and they didn't have the unlimited resources afforded to Solomon when he built the 1st

C)Israel was mighty under Solomon's reign – Mighty in financial wealthy and Military Strength

D)Now Israel was poor – weak and destitute.

They had given up hope- They understood they couldn't do it –

A)But in reality that is exactly where the Lord wanted them. – END of ourselves Beginning ...God

B)the work of God can not be accomplished by man, in his own strength and resources

C)THE MEANING: As God fueled the menorah without human help, the Temple will be constructed through the power of the Spirit.

Throughout the Scripture oil is a type of the Holy Spirit.

A)Oil lubricates, soothes, heals, lights, warms, refreshes, invigorates, fuels, polishes, and shines –

B) All of which the Spirit does in our lives.

➤ The Holy Spirit stokes our service.

C)He lubricates the work so it's easier and smoother. He refreshes along the way, and creates in us a shine.

Zerubbabel had a Plan which was good – they needed a plan – but what they lacked was power

A)The Meaning of the dream: God was saying – I will supply the Power.

B)My work cannot be accomplished by your puny hands and little strength – Not by your might

1)Your Power..... but By my Spirit says.....

To Zerubbabel this job seemed as hard as climbing a mountain. Yet verse 7 asks, “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!"

B)Zerubbabel will cut down his mountain and build the Temple,

1)but it won't be by his grit or genius that he gets the job done. It's all about grace.

C)And the same is true with the work God is wanting to do in you – It is a work of God's grace.

D)Any true work of God is always accomplished by the Spirit of God.

1)It's not more elbow grease we need, but the supernatural oil of the Spirit.

E)He gets the glory when that happens!

I love 1 Corinthians 1:27,- that God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise!

A)Speaking of Foolish – My dog and the boat. –

B)God likes to work with Foolish things – broken things – Weak things – He shows His power

C)He is glorified: God did that with Him – God did that with Her! – WOW!!!!

Later this Month – Nick Long be here: Love this guy

A)When God wanted to do an amazing work in Germany – What does he do?

B)He sends **Nick Long an ex-drug addict – drug dealer** – Musician – Nick Long

C)God would Use him to Grow one of the Largest Evangelical Church in Germany –

1) The Largest CC – in Europe - Such an amazing work-

C)**Prime Property** – Ikea wanted to pay top dollar

1)Sellers daughter went to church – off drugs... sold it to the church for a fraction

D)The owner of the largest lumber company – similar story with his son – donates the wood.

E)That is how God ROLLS – my friends!

God says to Zerubbabel – this is going to get done – but it is not going to be by your might/ Power

A)But by my Spirit says the Lord – through My grace!

B)You will be shouting – Grace – Grace – more Grace !!!

C)End of ourselves – Beginning of God

The Application – Zechariah 4:8-10

8 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

9 “The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands shall also finish it. Then you will know

That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.

10 For who has despised the day of small things?

For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the Lord, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.”

God’s word to Zerubbabel – You laid the foundation of the temple.

A)Through my help you are going to finish it!

B)So don’t despise the day **of small things** – of small beginnings

So lets bring this home to you and I, we are not building a temple in ancient Israel –

A)but I would venture to guess you are facing some **mountains in front of you right now**

B)YOUR Mountains are: Financial problems – Relational problems – Marriage

1)Maybe your problem is addiction of some sort

C)Maybe like Israel – **all you can see is the rubble.**

1)Maybe you have **gotten used to it** – accepted it as the norm

Listen: You and I have been given a similar promise to the one given here to Zerubbabel.

A)Philippians 1:6 **He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.**

B)You might be looking at the work and feel stuck – you might feel – **I can’t do this – never make it**

1)**That is good!** – The Lord has you Right where he wants you.

C) See The problem that many of us face – whether talking about growing in our walks – or **Serving the Lord**

1)We try to do the work of God in our own strength

Our DETERMINATION.

D)And often times the result of that is frustration discouragement and burn out. –

The first time I ever came face to face with this reality was back in my CM days. – College

A)Teaching a Sunday Night study with a friend

B)Problem was – I had a major issue with my friends Brother – **(The guy just bugged me – big time)**

1)It wasn't that this guy even knew it – all inside of me

C)I knew I was wrong: - But I couldn't shake it

1)The harder I tried to like the guy – the WORSE IT GOT!!! – I would determine – Fall flat on my face

Adam's question: I can't stand your bro!

So bad – I felt like a big Hypocrite – questioning my salvation: THE NIGHT IN THE PARK

A)I can't change my heart – You are right – but I can!

B)Daily Prayer – God began to work –

1)I had to take steps in the right direction – I couldn't avoid Mark - -

C)But it started with my realization – I can't do this – I can't change how I feel

1)God met me with His strength – His power

D)As I stepped out in faith – God supplied me with what was needed!

That principle has been repeated 100's of times sense in my life: In Overcoming sin – Serving in ministry

A)OR Getting along with a difficult person - THE BEST THING – is to realize that I am weak.

B)2 Corinthians 12:9 - Lord I am weak – He says my grace is sufficient power and is made perfect in weakness

1)Paul says – I will boast in my weakness – weak ...strong.

C)For too many of us – we never come to that place of realizing our weakness –

1)So we are Always sweating – always frustrated – God says Let me strengthen you – Let me fill you with my power – Strength that is beyond you.

A)You still have to work – you still have to put out effort – like Zerubbabel – still had to build

B)God wasn't saying: Sit back and Chill – watch how I miraculously do this – wake up one night... boom

1)IT IS DONE!

C)No but the point of this – is God was going to supply Zerubbabel. With a power greater than his own

1)And as Zerubbabel learned to co-operate with the Power of God the work was going to get done

Paul wrote in Philippians 2:12,13 “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

God's work in our lives does not happen by Osmosis – We have a part to play

A)You work hard and apply yourself to growing spiritually to following the Lord/ serving the Lord.

B))But understand that the work that you do – can be and really must be energized by the Lord.

C)I used this analogy a few weeks ago on a Wed night.

Having a plane arrive late in the airport and I have to make a connecting flight.

A)Upon exiting the plane –I discover the terminal where my next flight is taking off – is clear on the other side of the airport.

B)Discouraged: Thinking – no way I am going to make it –I am stuck

C)Then my heart is filled with Hope: Long moving sidewalks – airport –

1)Allow you to walk faster than normal

D)Now I still needed to walk fast – but by co-operating with a power greater than my own

1)I was able to make it to my gate in time to make that connecting flight.

E)That my friends is what Paul means when he says

“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

The Starting point is to Realize YOUR NEED – I CAN'T

Principle for everything in the Christian life: Husband – Father/Mother – Ministry

A)When we REALIZE OUR NEED – CRY OUT TO GOD – He responds with Grace – Power

B)We step out in Faith – He supplies the power for the work to get done!

C) God is saying today to some here: I want to do a work **IN your Life – **through** your life.**

1) You need to realize – You cannot do that without me

D) Need to come to the End of You/ See me!

E) Then you need to step out in Faith – Watch what I do in your weakness!

Before we go: Notice that the Lord tells Zerubbabel. Not to despise the days of small things.

A) Noted in Haggai – the temple was much smaller than Solomon's – **Old men cried**

B) God is saying to Zerubbabel. Don't be discouraged by the smallness – I HAVE BIG PLANS

1) Nothing small in God's eyes! Nothing insignificant to Him

C) In this day of Facebook and Instagram – see famous people doing **"Big things"**

1) I am nothing – no impact. – Just a mom/ Dad

D) Listen the greatest impact you might make for the kingdom of God – **not in something you do – but in someone YOU RAISE!**

D) Let God strengthen you to be the best MOM/DAD you can be.

Aaron: Blessed – times we were on our knees – God help us – Felt lost – VIDEO

A) Lord Help – Can't

B) Maybe little study: - Be faithful

1) Kids Ministry: Huge in God's eyes

You be faithful – God will supply your needs in Christ Jesus

A) **Begun a good work will be faithful to complete it**

B) Lord I can't – You can – fill me afresh with your Spirit – your Grace