

Not by might, nor by power, but by My Ruach

In this week's Torah Portion Aaron is instructed to light the golden *menorah*: “² *Speak to Aaron and say to him: When you erect the lamps...Just as was the pattern that Adonai had shown to Moses, so he made the menorah*” (Nu. 8:2,4). The *Haftarah* portion is *Zech. 2:14-4:7* with the vision in which the *menorah* was prominent.



4 Then the angel who had been speaking with me returned and woke me—like a man who is wakened from his sleep.² He asked me, ‘What do you see?’ I replied, ‘Behold, I see a solid gold menorah with its bowl at the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven pipes for the lamps that are on the top of it.’³ Also two olive trees are by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on the left side of it.’⁴ Then I responded by saying to the angel speaking with me, ‘What are these, my lord?’⁵ The angel who spoke with me responded by asking me, ‘You do not know what these are?’ I replied, ‘No, my lord.’⁶ Then he responded to me by saying, ‘This is the word of Adonai to Zerubbabel saying: “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Ruach!” says Adonai-Tzva’ot.’⁷ “What are you, great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain. He will bring out the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace” to it.’”⁸ Again the word of Adonai came to me saying:⁹ “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this House. His hands will also finish it. Then you will know that Adonai-Tzva’othas sent me to you.”¹⁰ For who despises the day of small things? These seven—which are the eyes of Adonai that run back and forth throughout the whole earth—will rejoice when they see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand.”¹¹ Then I responded by asking him, “What are these two olive trees, on the right and on the left of the menorah?”¹² Again I asked him, “What are these two olive branches beside the two golden pipes that empty the golden oil out of them?”¹³ He said to me, “You do not know what these are?” I said, “No, my lord.”¹⁴ So he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.” {See Rev. 11-4-5} (Zech. 4)

This is one of my favorite passages in all of Scripture. The staging chosen by *Adonai* to give this very important revelation is the Seven-Branch *Menorah* and *Two Olive Trees*. The Hebrew “*Lo V’Chayil*” means not by influence, not by wealth, and not by armies, that is, never by human means but always by His own means. Then “*VeLo B’Koach*,” which means not by physical force or sweat or capability or muscle. Zerubbabel and Joshua did not have enough people to rebuild the Second Temple. But by my *Ruach*: “*Ki Im-B’Ruchi*” says the “*Lord of Armies*.” We often erroneously think of the Spirit of God exclusively as gentle and meek, but in Genesis 2 “*The Spirit moved over waters*” and everything changed! There will be no more *null and void* after the *Ruach* of *Adonai* moves! The world came into being because of the Spirit of God, and that is what the Almighty is saying to Zechariah to tell Zerubbabel and Joshua. When the Lord said “*By My Spirit*” more than super industrial strength was now available – the kind of super energy that created the entire universe! Zerubbabel and Joshua were undoubtedly asking, “*how are we going to rebuild a country and a temple,*” and you and I ask ‘*how are we going to build a congregation, a ministry, a family, or a business.*’ How are we going to accomplish what God has ordained for us to do? By His Spirit we’ll have everything we need to accomplish it.

The two Olive Trees spread their branches over a Menorah that needs oil. Olive trees do not produce oil, the olives in the tree do. To get oil these olives have to be squeezed and pressed with enormous strength. God is ready to squeeze the olives and produce the oil that drips into and lights the menorah. What God is saying to Zerubbabel and Joshua and to you and me today is the He will fuel what needs to be done for us to accomplish what He has called us to do. Zerubbabel laid the foundation and he will also finish the job with whatever grace in necessary – with God squeezing the olives. In the same manner we are destined to finish the job He has given us because all the resources of heaven are at our disposition to get it done. The Lord Himself rejoices when we get the matter going by *getting the plumb line*, as we set about to accomplish the vision He has given to us!

But Zechariah really wanted to know what the two Olive Trees meant. Revelation 11 talks about these two *anointed ones*, e.g., two witnesses. But it could also be that the two olive trees are the same two olive trees of Romans 11 – the tame and the wild olive trees that represent Jew and Gentile. Two branches from these two peoples spread over the central branch of the *Menorah* (*Yeshua*) a picture of the body of Messiah that is present in the earth before the Lord returns. But this could represent a Messianic Congregation(s) (comprised of both Jews and Gentiles) that are preparing to empty themselves into what *Yeshua* wants to bring in their jurisdiction.

What is the context, and what, specifically, is to be accomplished not by human strength but solely by His spirit? Rashi says that the Temple will be restored, but not because of physical human strength; rather it will be because the spirit of God, the *Ruach Elohim*, will inspire Darius the King of Persia to allow His people to build the Temple in peace and even help. While we may believe in ourselves, remember, with humility, that we are not solely responsible for the gifts in our life, because for that, we are totally indebted to God. In other words, it’s not about us; it’s about God!



Can you see seven words over the seven flickering flames of the *Menorah* which the Angel helped Zechariah to read: {“*1-Lo, 2-B’chayil, 3-V’lo, 4-B’koach, 5-Ki, 6-im, 7-b’Ruchi*”} – “*Not by might, nor by power, but by MY SPIRIT!*” Can you see it today – for us? “*Even so, come Lord Yeshua.*” *Shabbat Shalom!*