

Pentwater Bible Church

Zechariah *Message 10 - God's Lampstands* *July 7, 2013*



The Menorah from The Temple Institute in Jerusalem

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Zechariah

Message Ten

The Golden Lampstand, Past, Present & Future - The 6th Vision of the Flying Scroll

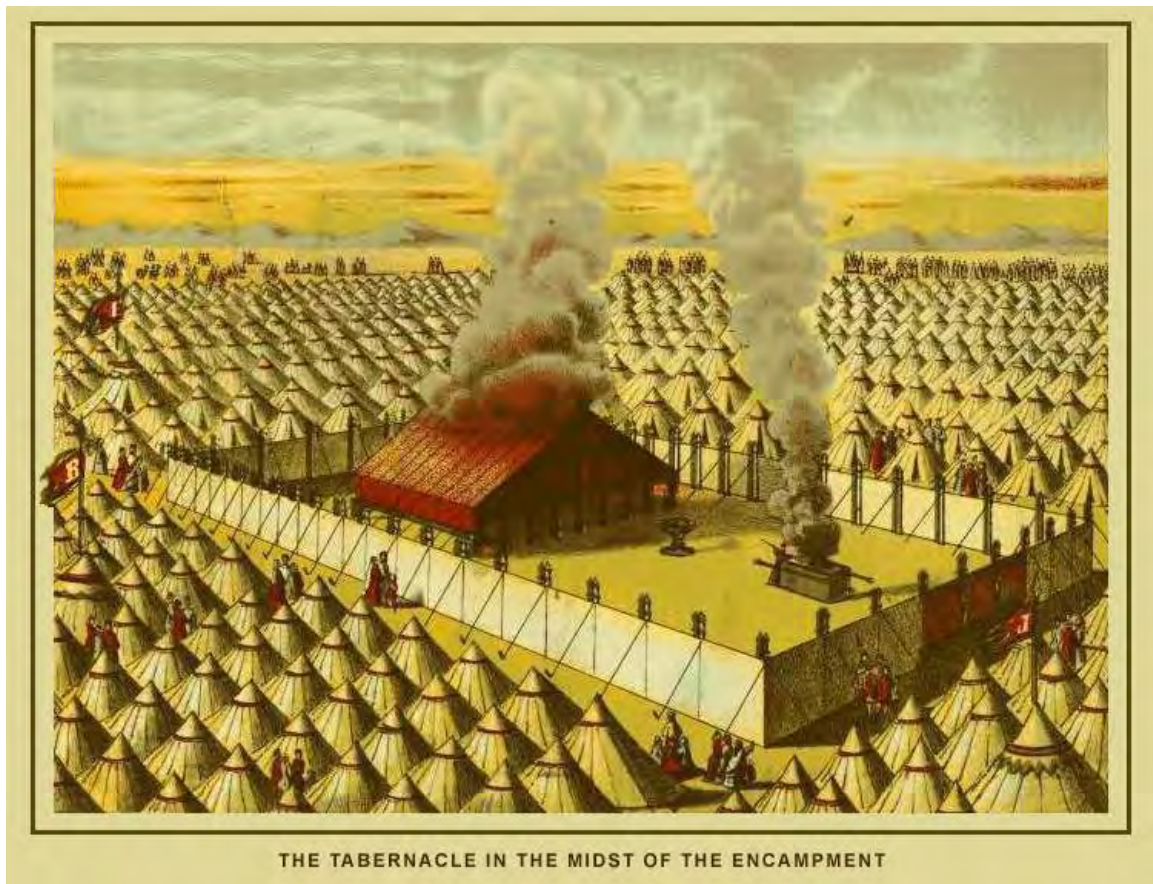
July 7, 2013

Daniel E. Woodhead

PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE CANDLESTICK

DISPENSATION OF THE LAW

In approximately 1440 B.C. Moses received instruction on Mt. Sinai to construct the Tabernacle (Hebrew *Mishkan*). It was made to resemble the pattern of the one in the heavenly Tabernacle (Hebrews 8:5). The 1st Temple of Solomon replaced it in approximately 957 B.C. It was in existence for about five hundred years.

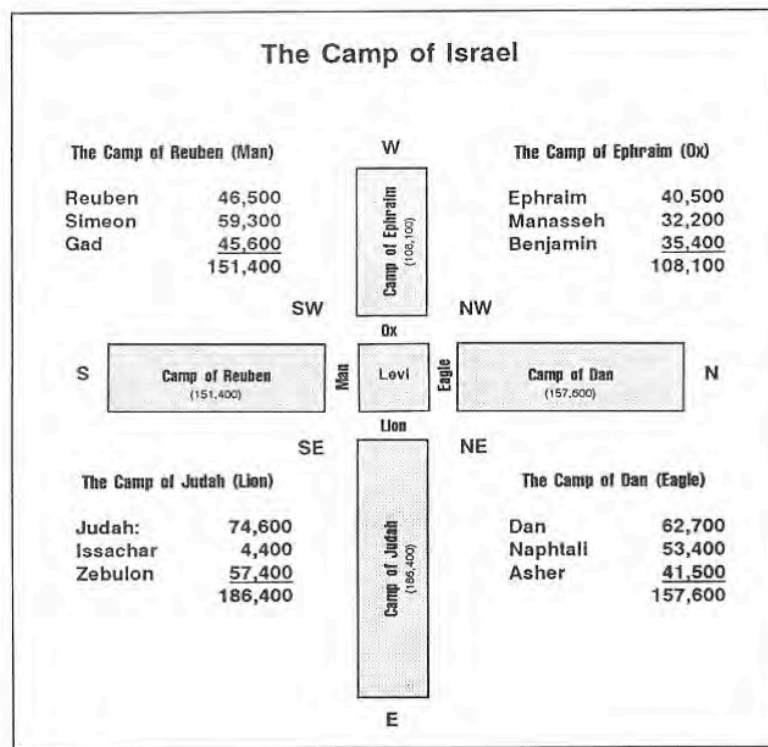


The tabernacle in the encampment from the Illustrated Parallel Bible of 1872 by Jones

The Tabernacle was of portable construction, made by wise, skillful workmen and transported by one tribe (the Levites) through the 40 years in the desert wilderness and on into the land of Canaan. The Tabernacle has three primary functions ordained by God.

1. It was to be where His presence would reside while meeting with The Children of Israel.
2. It would represent His heavenly Throne.
3. It would be a foreshadowing of The Lord Jesus Christ here on earth as well as a representation of that which is in heaven.

The ancient Israelites were instructed to camp around the Tabernacle in a very specific manner (Numbers 2:1-34), which represents a cross.



One of the components of the Tabernacle was the lampstand (Hebrew *Menorah*). It was filled with pure olive oil, which is a representation of God's Holy Spirit. This was to provide a physical image of the light of God to the Israelites. So during the dispensation of the Law the lampstand would represent God's light and presence giving off Himself to the Jews and the world in general through them. This light was the only light in the Tabernacle. There was no light from outside the Tabernacle that was allowed to enter in, only the perpetual light of the Lampstand. It was supposed to but at all times. The middle of the seven lamps would burn all night with the outer six burning from morning to night.



Menorah from the Temple Institute in Jerusalem

Exodus 25:31-40

³¹And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made, even its base, and its shaft; its cups, its knops, and its flowers, shall be of one piece with it. ³²And there shall be six branches going out of the sides thereof; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side thereof, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side thereof:

³³three cups made like almond-blossoms in one branch, a knop and a flower; and three cups made like almond-blossoms in the other branch, a knop and a flower: so for the six branches going out of the candlestick: ³⁴and in the candlestick four cups made like almond-blossoms, the knops thereof, and the flowers thereof; ³⁵and a knop under two branches of one piece with it, and a knop under two branches of one piece with it, and a knop under two branches of one piece with it, for the six branches going out of the candlestick. ³⁶Their knops and their branches shall be of one piece with it; the whole of it one beaten work of pure gold. ³⁷And thou shalt make the lamps thereof, seven: and they shall light the lamps thereof, to give light over against it. ³⁸And the snuffers thereof, and the snuffdishes thereof, shall be of pure gold. ³⁹Of a talent of pure gold shall it be made, with all these vessels. ⁴⁰And see that thou make them after their pattern, which hath been showed thee in the mount (ASV 1901).

The Temple had at least twelve Menorah's and some of them were made of silver.

As a representation of God's presence and light it foreshadowed the Messiah's (Christ) characteristics. Some of those are:

1. As a representation of the Light of God it burned brightly and continuously until Christ's death when the Temple Veil was torn from top to bottom making a sign that the Light of the World was spreading for all and was no longer constrained to the Holy of Holies (Matthew 27:51).
2. The olive oil used was from a press, which is called Gethsemane in Greek. The name Gethsemane means "oil press," which suggests that the place Jesus went to pray was going to provide him with an excruciating and crushing spiritual experience. Both Luke and John mention this as a customary meeting place for Jesus and His disciples (Luke 22:39; John 18:2). He had told them about the suffering he would endure but they did not understand. Luke 12: 50 states, "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished"
3. Christ witnesses to every heart through the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-13).
4. He clearly shed His light and was the Light from all eternity and will be to all eternity (John 1:7-9; Revelation 21:23).
5. Our Lord who is the most pure unblemished, person to live is seen in the pure gold commanded to be in the Menorah. His deity is golden to us (John 1:14).
6. The Gold was beaten to shape it in the end design God intended to bring His light to the world. Christ was beaten for our sins (Matthew 27:26; Luke 22:63, 23:16 etc.).
7. The Lampstand was all of one piece not made of parts. Christ in His suffering never had a bone broken. He remained whole (John 19:33).
8. Its shape like an almond tree represents His fruitfulness in the spreading of the Gospel (Matthew 28:19-20).

9. The seven branches represent God's perfection and Christ is the perfect revealer of truth.

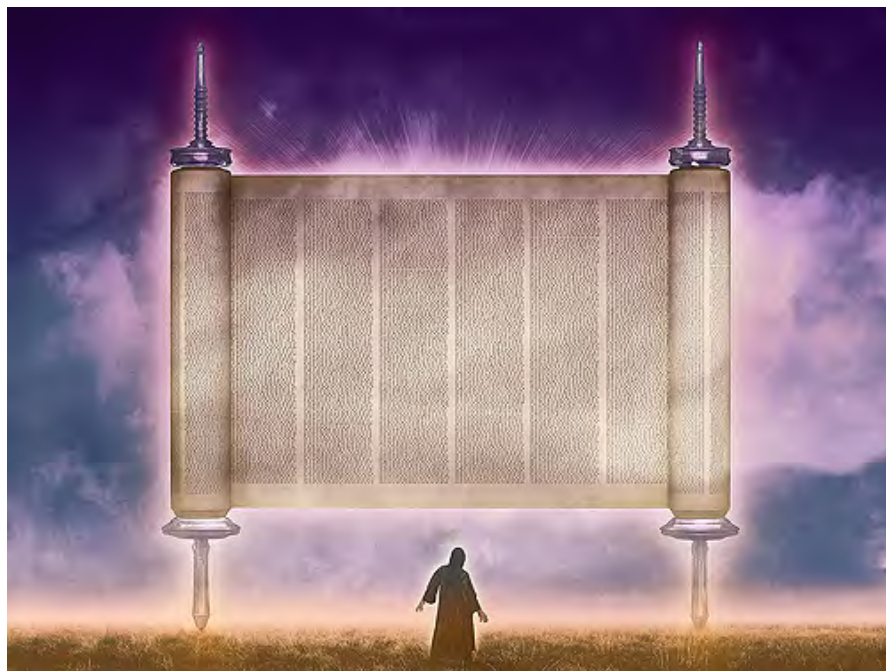
DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH AGE OR AGE OF GRACE

The Menorah was no longer needed and was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. Christ is our light and His representation was now realized in the flesh as He appeared to all men as the Light of the World that takes away sins (John 1:7-9). The Menorah has been remade by the nation Israel in anticipation of installing it in their next Temple, which will be the Tribulation Temple. Christ has characterized Himself during this period as the one who stands in the middle of seven Golden Candlesticks (Revelation 1:12-20). He characterizes the seven candlesticks as seven churches with Him in the middle. Christ will not be in the Tribulation Temple but Antichrist will allow it to be built and then go into the Holy of Holies to commit the abomination of desolation. The False Prophet will make an inanimate image of the Antichrist in the Holy of Holies and cause it to become alive (Revelation 13:11-15). Near to the this time the two witnesses who will preaching God's Word in the center of Jerusalem will be called The Two Candlesticks and olive trees as they bring God's Word to a very unwelcome reception (Revelation 11: 3:13).

DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM

While the Temple will be build and operational during this period there will no longer be a need for the Menorah as the Light of the World will be running the government of the world from David's throne in Jerusalem. Ezekiel who received an exceptional amount of detail regarding the Millennial Temple never mentions a Lampstand.

VISION OF THE FLYING SCROLL



THE VISION OF THE FLYING SCROLL BY TED LARSON

Zechariah 5:1-4

¹ Then again I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, a flying roll. ² And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits. ³ Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole land: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off on the one side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off on the other side according to it. ⁴ I will cause it to go forth, saith Jehovah of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name; and it shall abide in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof (ASV 1901).

The first five visions Zechariah received in the spring of 520 B.C. were all comforting to the Jews returning back to Israel after spending seventy plus years as prisoners of war in Babylon. God had assured them a future, a Temple and spirit filled men to guide both the religious life and governmental activities. In this vision He will make an abrupt change to remind them that He is holy and cannot excuse evil. It was their sin that caused the Babylonians to take them into captivity in 586 B.C. and God will deal harshly with them if they continue to sin. This vision deals with God's rigid moral requirements for them in the reestablishment of the Jerusalem community. It also includes their severe loss of life during the Great Tribulation wherein 2/3 of the world's population of Jews will die due to their sins; the greatest of which is not believing in Jesus as their Messiah (Zechariah 13:8). During the Millennial Kingdom He will rule with an iron rod and have a rigid judicial and governmental administration (Revelation 2:27, 12:5, 19:15). Anything that defiles and represents abomination must be cleansed.

God sent His Messiah to shed His grace upon the earth, which is His, preferred method dealing with sin and abominations. For those who become regenerated believers in Jesus their sins are cleansed and they will not have to go through the Great Tribulation, which is coming on this earth. But for those who persist in their wickedness, and, in spite of the marvelous display of God's grace, will not learn righteousness but continue in sin and iniquity to the extent that they will not accept God's grace. With them God's method is that of judgment. Sin must be purged away and iniquity must be eradicated.

The first aspect of this vision is Zechariah again turning his attention to a new set of images. He sees a large scroll flying in the air. The scroll was the primary means of recording written words until the New Testament times. The scroll was leather or parchment consisting of single sheets sewn end on end and rolled around wooden rollers at either end. Because of the huge volume of biblical writings that were generated and distributed a new and more efficient means of condensing written communication had to be devised. This necessitated the invention of the codex. The codex is a set of leaves, which are sewn together and laid flat upon each other instead of rolling a single sheet on a straight rod. We now call them books.

What he sees is The “roll” or “scroll,” (Hebrew *megillah*,) as the emblem of a solemn message from God to man. It is used in other Scriptures as well. For Example:

Ezekiel 2:9-10

⁹ And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; ¹⁰ And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe (ASV 1901).

Revelation 5:1

¹And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals (KJV).

This scroll was not rolled up like the one described in Revelation chapter five which Jesus opens to start the Great Tribulation. This one is completely open and therefore has the two dimensions given. It was also written on both sides, which is characteristic of a Scriptural scroll.

He had been so absorbed by the previous images that he was put into a state of exhaustion. He was looking down in a meditative state when this vision presented itself causing him to look up to see it. In order to make sure that Zechariah is getting the clear message of the vision the angel that talks to him (*malakh haddobher bi*) asks him what he is seeing. What he sees is a scroll twenty cubits in length and ten cubits in breadth flying in the air. This scrolls dimensions are thirty feet by fifteen feet. These dimensions are the exact size of the Tabernacle. This is a clear message that God is first making Israel responsible for Godly behavior.

The angel then tells Zechariah that this is the curse that goes out upon the whole land (Hebrew *cal-ha-arehts*) or the whole earth. This is a curse that starts with Israel and moves to the rest of the people groups of the entire world.

THE MEANING OF THE VISION EXPLAINED

Zechariah 5:3-4

³Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole land: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off on the one side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off on the other side according to it. ⁴I will cause it to go forth, saith Jehovah of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name; and it shall abide in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof (ASV 1901).

God is making it quite clear that even though God singled out two of His Commandments lying and stealing He is referencing all of them. Zechariah is

employing a figure of speech known as merism, which is a type of synecdoche, which means that by simply mentioning two laws the author actually refers to all of them. And the judgment which is to fall on the unrepentant, unpardoned transgressor will not only be “according to the measure of the sanctuary,” but in strict correspondence with the majesty and holiness of the law which has been broken. God’s judgment will overtake the wicked and man cannot escape. No matter where he thinks he can hide within himself God sees all and knows all. The unrepentant sinner will always be found out and receive judgment.

The immediate application for this was the returning remnant of Israelites to Jerusalem. Because “theft” and “false swearing” referred to in this vision has a reference to the *sins* of which the Jews who were guilty in withholding the tithes due from them for the Levites (Nehemiah 13:10), and in holding back the due tithes and offerings from the Lord (Malachi 3:8).

The near term pronouncements are against the Jews and Christians of the Church who denied God His funds to carry out His work and brought in Heresy to replace His Holy Word. The Church has for the most part gone apostate and most Jews do not believe that Jesus is their Messiah. The final separation shall take place, and the wicked be “cut off” from the congregation of the Lord, and all sin and iniquity be finally cleansed away from the “holy land” (Zechariah 2:12), and from “off the face of the whole earth.” At the end of the Great Tribulation when the Jews finally believe that Jesus is their Messiah God will begin to remove all the idols of the land and kill the false prophets. The last cleansing that He will have to perform will be at the end of the Millennial Kingdom when the uprising occurs led by an unrestrained Satan. God will purge that for the final time.

NEXT WEEK: VISION SEVEN: THE VISION OF THE WOMAN IN THE EPHAH

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

Info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com Toll Free 877-706-2479