

How to Learn the Truth
International Bible Lesson
Zechariah 4:1-14
Sunday, June 22, 2014
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 4:5-6—KJV).

“Then the angel who talked with me answered me, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ I said, ‘No, my lord.’ He 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’” (Zechariah 4:5-6—NRSV).

We can learn many facts by using the human abilities God has given us, but some truths cannot be learned from observation and logical reasoning. Some truths must be revealed by God to us, accurately recorded, and passed on to others. Zechariah saw some unusual objects, but he could not learn what these objects meant until the angel revealed their significance to him. The Bible reveals many truths that people will only learn and understand because God has spoken and revealed them personally (as He did with Abraham and Moses) or through angels, prophets, and Jesus Christ. Without the Bible, we cannot learn the most important truths about ourselves and God’s plan to rescue us from sin and death through the gift of Jesus the Messiah. When God created people, God gave them might and power to do many things. To paraphrase an observer, “It is amazing how much people can do without God,” but they can only do these things because of the gifts God has given them. However, the most important achievements and projects can only be accomplished by the Spirit of God. God sometimes works through our human powers by His Spirit, but God can equally accomplish His purposes by His Spirit alone. Through the reading of the Bible and prayer, believers can learn many truths from God and His will for them and receive the power of His Spirit to do His will and fulfill His plans. – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. How did Haggai and Zechariah receive their revelations from the LORD? How do most Christians receive their revelations from the LORD today?
2. When did the angel tell Zechariah the meaning of the candlestick and the two olive trees? What might we learn from his perfect timing?
3. If God wants us to do something in obedience to Him and we know that we do not have the resources to do what He wants us to do, what verse from Zechariah can encourage us to begin obeying God with what we have?
4. Compare God's word to Zerubbabel through Zechariah in Zechariah 4:7 and Jesus' word to His disciples in Matthew 17:20. What did God do to Zerubbabel and Jesus to His disciples mean by a mountain? How does Zerubbabel's success in moving the mountain help you understand the meaning of what Jesus told His disciples?
5. How would the people know that God had sent Zechariah to Zerubbabel to tell him to rebuild the temple?