

Visions in the Night, Part 2:  
God's Ultimate Victory over Sin  
Zechariah 4.1-6.15

Zechariah's first four visions show God's unwavering compassion for Israel. The second four visions pick up where the first four leave off – with the nation being cleansed from sin. This deeper need for spiritual cleansing is the focus of Zechariah's second four visions.

Visions in the Night (Part 2)

- Lampstand & olive trees (4.1-14) – *Israel a light to the nations!*  
*Short term:*  
*Long term:*
- Giant flying scroll (5.1-4) – *God judges those who disobey His law*  
*Short term:*  
*Long term:*
- Woman in a basket (5.5-11) – *Wickedness removed from the land*  
*Short term:*  
*Long term:*
- Four chariots (6.1-8) – *God's wrath on an evil world is coming*  
*Short term:*  
*Long term:*

'Closing Ceremony' – Joshua crowned → The Coming Priest-King!

Timeless Applications for God's People

- God provides spiritual cleansing for His people in every age.
- Real spiritual success comes not by our efforts, but by the Spirit.
- When you get discouraged, look forward to our coming King!

1. Zechariah's fifth vision, recorded in Zech. 4, is described in great detail (read 4.2-3, 11-14). A golden lampstand, with seven lamps, each with seven spouts (49 oil-burning lights in all!). A bowl for oil is above it, and two olive trees, one on each side, feeding olive oil into the bowl to keep all the lights burning. We aren't told what every feature stands for. But the angel speaking to Zechariah says it is symbolic of God enabling Zerubbabel to complete the temple. How will this be accomplished (4.6)? [Note: Oil is often symbolic of the Spirit in Scripture.] When Zerubbabel puts the final stone in place, what will the people shout (4.7)? The lampstand represents the light, or witness, that Israel will shine for all nations. The Spirit will provide strength to complete the task. This vision pertained to Israel. As an interesting comparison, read Rev. 1.12-20. How are churches described? Are we similarly to be a light to the nations?
2. The sixth vision is of a huge 'flying scroll' (5.1-4). What did the writing on the scroll signify (v3)? If Israel was to be a light to the nations, they must be spiritually clean themselves. What is God's means of cleansing sin from His people?
3. What is the seventh vision (5.5-11)? An ephah was a measure of 5 to 10 gallons, but in post-exilic Israel it referred to a large basket of any size. What's in the basket, and what does it symbolize (7-8)? Where is the basket carried? Shinar is another name for Babylon, and from the beginning is a place of evil (see Gen. 11.1-9). What are the 'short term' and 'long term' fulfillments of this vision?
4. The eighth vision is of four chariots driven by red, white, black, and dappled horses. The 'winds' symbolize God's judgment on nations. Where had they been (5)? Where do they go (6-7)? What does it mean that God's wrath had been appeased?
5. In the final scene, Zechariah crowns Joshua the high priest. But as earlier (see 3.8-10), Joshua points to a future person who will reign as a priest-king. Who is the man named "Branch" (12)? What is the time spoken of in verses 12-15?