

The Two Witnesses Of Revelation

"In that day," says the Lord of hosts, "I will take you Zerubbabel My servant, and will make you My signet (holy seal) for I have chosen you," says the Lord of hosts (Haggai 2:23).

'The angel showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Lord ... Now Joshua was clothed in filthy garments and was standing before the Angel of Lord. The Lord spoke to those who stood before Him saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." He said to Joshua, "Behold, I have caused your iniquity to pass from you and I will clothe you with rich clothing" (Zechariah 3:1 to 4).

"I see and behold a lampstand all of gold with its bowl for oil on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it, and seven pipes to each of the seven lamps which are on the top of it. There are two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on the left of it." I asked the angel who talked with me saying, "What are these, my lord?" Then the angel asked, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." The angel answered, "This is the Word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, "Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit (of Whom the oil is a symbol)" says the Lord' (Zechariah 4:2 to 6).

'Then I asked the angel, "What are these two olive trees on the right side of the lampstand and on the left of it?" A second time I said to him, "What are these two olive branches beside the two golden pipes by which the golden (pure) oil is emptied out?" ... Then said the angel, "These are the two anointed sons of (pure olive) oil (Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the prince of Judah), who stand before the Lord of the whole earth" (Zechariah 4:11 to 14).

"I will give power to My two witnesses and they will prophesy for 1,260 days (3½ years). These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands which stand before the Lord of the earth" (Revelation 11:3 & 4).

These two witnesses are two Jewish men (Zechariah 4:14) and are the two olive trees and the two lampstands who stand before the Lord of the earth. Who did Zechariah say were the two olive trees; the two lampstands; the two anointed ones (sons of oil; Holy Spirit filled Jewish men) who stand before the Lord of the whole earth? These two were Joshua and Zerubbabel. The two witnesses in the Book of Revelation are Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the prince of Judah. The scriptures cannot be any clearer than that.

Their ministry in Revelation is not a 'reincarnation' of Joshua and Zerubbabel, but a divine temporary 'earth visit'. When Moses and Elijah spoke to Jesus on the top of the Mount of Olives they were not reincarnated, but they temporarily met with Jesus on earth for a brief visit. 'Elijah and Moses appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus ... A cloud came overshadowing them, and a Voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him." Suddenly looking around, they saw no one with them any more, except Jesus only' (Mark 9:4 to 8).

A brief look at these two men gives us a picture of why they were chosen by God. Zerubbabel was the prince of Judah – Jesus our King came from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). The Joshua in Zechariah is the high priest – not the Joshua who followed Moses, and Jesus is our High Priest. Joshua's name in Hebrew is pronounced Yeshua and is the exact same name as Jesus, which is the Greek form of the name, and Jesus is also pronounced, Yeshua. Yeshua means Jah is Salvation, or God our Salvation (Psalm 89:26). Jesus is our Saviour – He gave us salvation. 'For the grace of God has appeared for the eternal salvation for all mankind ... awaiting and looking for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus the Messiah (Yeshua HaMashiach, the Anointed One)' (Titus 2:11 & 13).

Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the prince of Judah are described as olive trees that produce golden (pure) oil, symbolising the purity of the Holy Spirit, and also lampstands that show the Light. Zerubbabel and Joshua led the exiled Jews from Babylon and together they began rebuilding the temple during 520 and 516 BC. Jesus came to lead and began to build His temple – the host of believers who have been filled with the Holy Spirit. If we read the whole of the text, Revelation 11:3 to 12, we see the two witnesses are the two prophets who were given great power, tormented the population of the world by calling for repentance, were killed, lay in the streets of Jerusalem for three days, then rose and were taken to heaven. Jesus conducted His ministry under the guidance of God the Father (John 5:19) with the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14), He 'greatly disturbed' the religious Jews by calling for repentance, He was killed in Jerusalem and rose on the third day and was taken to heaven. Joshua was a high priest – Jesus is our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14). Zerubbabel was a prince of Judah – Jesus is the Prince of Judah, now our King.

Many hundreds of people have been confused over who the two witnesses are, but if we tie the scriptures from Zechariah in with Revelation, we can see exactly who the two witnesses are. The combination of the office of high priest and the office or ruler/prince of Judah points to the Messianic Priest/King ministry of

Jesus. 'It is He Who will build the true temple of the Lord and He will bear the glory of the Father and will sit and rule on His throne. He will be a Priest on His throne and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices (of Priest and King)' (Zechariah 6:13). Jesus built the true temple of the Lord – the born-again, Holy Spirit filled, dedicated Christians are the true temple of the Lord – the true temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16 & 6:19). He is our King and when we are born-again, we enter into His Kingdom of Heaven.

To fully understand the whole picture of these two chosen witnesses, we need to closely study the books of Haggai and Zechariah in a Hebrew to English (or your language) translation. It helps if we can understand the nuances of the Hebrew language and their unique culture.

Amen and God bless you.

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