

Burning before the Throne, Part 1

Session Eleven Class Outline

- A. There was an event in biblical history that occasioned an explosion of scriptural writings unlike any other single event.
1. It was: _____.
 2. Put together all the Scriptures that deal in some fashion with the captivity of God's people, and you have roughly one-third of the Bible.
 3. Add those written by people in exile or prison, and you have almost half the Bible.
 4. A couple observations about captivity:
 - a. Captivity is sometimes _____ than expected.
 - b. Not everyone comes back. "If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill!" (Ps. 137:5).
- B. Zerubbabel returned to Jerusalem with 50,000 people. The first order of business: Rebuild the house of prayer. The rebuilding is helped along by the prophetic ministries of Haggai and Zechariah.
- C. Now we come to Zech. 4.
1. Drawing the vision.
 2. One's first question: What does the lampstand signify?
 3. The historic, textbook interpretation: Nation of Israel.
 - a. Israel was called to be a light to the Gentiles (Isa. 49:6; Acts 13:47).
 - b. In this interpretation, the two olives trees are said to represent the anointed ministries of the priestly leader (Joshua, Zech. 3) and the governmental leader (Zerubbabel, Zech. 4) who are used of God to set the nation on fire for God.
 4. I see at least three other valid, biblical interpretations.
- D. The lampstand as a local (or city-wide) church.
1. "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches" (Rev. 1:20).
 2. In this verse, a lampstand is a local church.

Session Eleven Class Outline, cont'd

3. What, then, would be the two olive trees? My best answer:
 - a. The ministry of the pastor/word (governmental leader).
 - b. The ministry of the worship leader/worship (priestly leader).
 4. Anointed worship, mixed with anointed preaching, is the God-ordained mixture that ignites the community of believers to be a bright light in their region.
- E. Rev. 11:4 gives us two other ways to look at it.
1. “And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth” (Rev. 11:3-4).
 2. Virtually all scholars agree that Rev. 11:4 is harking back to the vision of Zech. 4.
 3. First option: The two witnesses are the two olive trees.
 - a. In this interpretation, what is the lampstand?
 - b. My perspective: the end-time church.
 4. Second option: The two witnesses are lampstands.
- F. The interpretation I am submitting for your consideration: The lampstand is Zerubbabel.
1. To put it another way: The lampstand is the servant leader of the Lord. The lampstand is you.
 2. I knew I had a lamp in my spirit. “The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD” (Prov. 20:27). I had no awareness of having multiple lamps.
 3. We have multiple lamps within.
 - a. Jesus said, “Let your waist be girded, and your lamps burning” (Luke 12:35).
 - b. “And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God” (Rev. 4:5).
 - c. If that Spirit fills me, will I also burn with His seven fires?
- G. What are the two trees? It's the question.



Session Eleven Class Outline, cont'd

H. This week's assignment:

1. Read chapters 49-52 in *Secrets Of The Secret Place*.
2. In the *Companion Study Guide*, complete the section entitled "For Personal Reflection" in chapters 49-52.
3. Come next week prepared to discuss your assigned chapters.
4. Write down and bring with you any questions you'd like to ask the group.