

Zechariah 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

Analysis

Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth—The angel's answer identifies the olive trees as shənē bənē-hayyitshar (שְׁנֵי בְּנֵי-הַיַּצְחָר), 'two sons of fresh/new oil'), literally 'sons of the oil/anointing'—those who continuously receive and dispense anointing. The term points to Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor, both anointed for their respective offices (priests were anointed, Exodus 29:7; Davidic kings were anointed, 1 Samuel 16:13). Together they represent the dual messianic offices—priest and king—united perfectly in Christ.

That stand by the Lord of the whole earth—Hā'ōmədīm 'al-'ādōn kol-hā'āretz (הָעִמָּדִים עַל-אָדוֹן כָּל-הָאָרֶץ) depicts them standing in service before 'the Lord of the whole earth'—not just Israel's God but sovereign over all nations. The 'standing' ('ōmədīm) posture indicates readiness for service, like ministers awaiting commands (compare the angels standing before God, 3:7). This previews Messiah who 'stands at God's right hand' (Psalm 110:1; Acts 7:55-56) having accomplished redemption, now exercising priestly intercession (Hebrews 7:25) and royal rule. Revelation 11:4 applies this imagery to the 'two witnesses' martyred then resurrected, testifying during tribulation. The principle: God empowers anointed servants who stand before Him to supply life-giving oil to His lampstand people.

Historical Context

In 520 BC, Joshua and Zerubbabel jointly led the restoration—Joshua rebuilding worship, Zerubbabel rebuilding infrastructure. Neither alone could accomplish God's purposes; both together, anointed and empowered by the Spirit, supplied what Israel needed. This dual leadership foreshadowed Christ who unites both offices—our great High Priest and King of Kings—and who anoints us as 'a royal priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the dual anointing (priestly and royal) in Joshua and Zerubbabel preview Christ's unique office?
2. What does 'standing by the Lord of the whole earth' teach about the source and accountability of spiritual authority?
3. In what ways do Spirit-anointed leaders today serve as 'golden pipes' dispensing oil to God's lampstand church?

Interlinear Text

עַל בָּעֵמֶד יְמִים אֵלֶּה וְיֵאמֶר
Then said H428 he These are the two ones anointed that stand H5921
H559 H8147 H1121 H3323 H5975

בְּאָרֶץ כָּל אָדָם
by the Lord H3605 of the whole earth H776

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 11:4 (Parallel theme): These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Exodus 40:15 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.

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