

Revelation 3:1 (NKJV)

1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the **seven Spirits** of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'

SARDIS
& the seven spirits of God

This is the first of two evaluation reports where nothing positive is said about the congregation, except a brief combination in verse 4.

1. Bible interpretation

1. "seven Spirits of God" comes out of imagery in Zechariah indicating the fullness of the Spirit's presence.

Most of the symbols found in the Book of Revelation, have their source in Old Testament imagery. Primarily they are found in **Zechariah**, **Ezekiel**, **Isaiah**, and especially **Daniel**. So in order to understand this figurative language from the book of Revelation we must look to some of these Old Testament books.

Very important that we don't just start assigning new meaning to these symbols and events, that have been already identified in the Old Testament.

That's why God in His wisdom introduces these symbols and these events in placeless fashion throughout the Old Testament so that when you get to Revelation, everything comes together.

It's not new revelation.

But our job is to tie together the Old Testament imagery with the book of Revelation in order to understand what's being communicated.

2. The seven Spirits of God?

Revelation 3:1-6 (NKJV)

1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has **The seven spirits of God** and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'

Seven eyes is a description of the Lamb.

Revelation 5:6 (NKJV)

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as though it had been slain**, having seven horns and **seven eyes**, which are the **seven Spirits of God** sent out into all the earth.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard: hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

3. The function of the Holy Spirit in history

This is the period after the return from the Babylonian captivity around 520 BC.

Chapters 3 and 4 of Zechariah focus on the two leaders, Zerubbabel and Joshua, and their role in bringing about a **cleansing of Israel** as they come back to the land and the dedication of the new temple.

Chapter three, verses 1-5 is a picture of the **personal cleansing** of Joshua the high priest. An **imputation of righteousness**.

Zechariah 3:1-6 (NKJV)

1 Then he showed me **Joshua** the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.
2 And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

3 Now **Joshua** was clothed with filthy garments, and **was standing before the Angel**.

4 Then he answered and spoke to **those who stood before Him**, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "See, **I have removed your iniquity from you**, and I will clothe you with rich robes."

5 And I said, "Let **them** put a clean turban on his head." So **they** put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.

Verses 6-10 is a picture of **future cleansing**.

So it moves from history to prophecy, the **future cleansing** that will come to Israel when God finally delivers them.

It is directing their attention away from their current situation to a situation that is still in the future.

6 Then the Angel of the Lord admonished **Joshua**, saying,

7 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: **If** you will walk in My ways, And **if** you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts: **I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here**.

8 Hear, O **Joshua**, the high priest. You and your companions who all before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth **My Servant the BRANCH**.

Isaiah 11:1-9 (NKJV)

1 These shall come from a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And **He BRANCH** shall grow out of his roots.
2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth. He shall strike the earth with the rod of His wrath, And with the breath of His anger He shall blow the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And truthfulness the belt of His waist.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (NKJV)

5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that **I will raise to David a BRANCH of righteousness**. A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.
6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. Now this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTeousness**."

9 For behold, **the stone** That I have laid before **Joshua**: Upon **the stone** are **seven eyes**.

Seven eyes is a description of the Lamb.

Revelation 5:6 (NKJV)

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as though it had been slain**, having seven horns and **seven eyes**, which are the **seven Spirits of God** sent out into all the earth.

Zechariah 4:10 (NKJV)

10 For who has despised the day of small things? For **these seven** plumb lines is the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the **eyes** of the Lord, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

Behold, **I will engrave Its inscription**. Says the Lord of hosts, "And **I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day**."

One of the trends that we see in the Old Testament is the promise of a **future perfect government**.

10 **In that day**, says the Lord of hosts, "Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree."

That future perfect government is not going to come in until the Messiah comes. Man can't accomplish it.

You can't have perfect government unless there is perfect knowledge.

So we have here **seven eyes** which speaks of omniscience. "...and I will remove the iniquity of the land in one day."

So we move from the cleansing of Joshua to the cleansing of the nation, **eschatologically**. This occurs when the Messiah, the son of David, **the BRANCH** is installed upon His throne.

So this is the future cleansing of the nation when they are redeemed as a nation in one day, the day that Jesus Christ returns at the second coming. Joshua's cleansing is used as a type of the nation's future cleansing under the Messiah.

omniscience | **AmnSh**(ains, Amnshans) | noun the state of knowing everything; the notion of divine omniscience | **Amnshans** | **omniscience** and **infallibility**.

Continuing to focus on Future occurrences;

Zechariah 4:1-14 (NKJV)

1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and awakened me, as a man who is awakened out of his sleep.
2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a **lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps**."

3 **Two olive trees** are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

He identifies that what this **oil** is that is coming out to the lamp stands.

4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?"
5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

6 So he answered and 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.

Both the **Spirit of God** and **the Word of God** are the source for our ability to function as a Christian.

God is setting this in the context of the future.

This isn't talking about what was fulfilled historically in Zechariah's time.

God is comforting Zechariah in the midst of his struggles, teaching him that the temple will be rebuilt, not the angry men, nor by man's power, but by His Spirit it will be accomplished.

Zerubbabel and Joshua as the two key leaders in Israel are a type of What is ultimately going to be fulfilled in the future millennial kingdom, and what is going to happen when Jesus returns.

7 "Who are **you**, O great mountain? Before **Zerubbabel** **you** shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the captives With shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"

8 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

9 "The hands of **Zerubbabel** Have laid the foundation of this temple. His hands shall also finish it. Then **you will know** That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.

10 For who has despised the day of small things? For **these seven** rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of **Zerubbabel**. **They are the eyes of the Lord**. Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

11 Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"
12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden **oil** is drawn?"

13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."
14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

The lamp stand in Scripture is a picture of the illumination of the truth

oil | related to the Holy Spirit and to His ministry

10.16.18

his legal **cleansing** before God

Here again we have the **if** clause from Revelation 2

House Temple Must stay Pure (Israel) Sanctity

The temporary endowment of the Holy Spirit upon the leaders of Israel, and the filling of the Holy Spirit in the church age is merely a forerunner of the role of the Holy Spirit in the millennial kingdom

Zechariah 3:1-6 (NKJV)
30 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their midst, and will be their Father, and they shall be My people.
34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Every regenerate person will know inherently and intuitively the Word of God and understand the revelation of God.

So that is what this is describing, the future empowerment by the Holy Spirit as indicated by the **oil**.