

chapter 2. God has cleansed the nation and proven it in the rebuke of the adversary. Even though it is not worthy on its own to move to the promises and stature assigned by God, He has given it that place. Now, knowing cleansing and restoration, it should faithfully move on to the will of the Lord.

This, of course, poses yet another question: How will the nation be able to do the vast task that is set before it in the rebuilding and restructuring of the religious life? And this calls for a further vision with regard to the holy implementation of the goals of God.

5. The Vision of the Lampstand chapter 4

- a. Precise: Part of the importance of this vision is understanding the role of the lampstand in the tabernacle. I think it symbolized the enlightening work of the Holy Spirit in the Holy Place. If this symbolization is allowed then the point of this vision is to show the power of God for the deed to be done. That the work will be done by the Holy Spirit is undeniable in the light of v. 6. The only question is the use of the symbol and the degree of its meaning.

You will observe that the visions are more difficult in understanding as they take up the ideas that are most common in the mind of the Jews. The main job has been hindered more by apathy than any other single thing and apathy can raise innumerable questions of an internal and personal sort that are almost impossible to deal with. So the obscurity of the visions, to us, is the end result of dealing with the remoteness of objections on the part of the people. We can feel fairly certain that, although the visions may seem dark or obscure to us, they were likely much clearer in the mind of the writer and in the ears of the hearers. Pictures that originally are well understood are often diminished in clarity by the changing of context and the passing of culture levels.