

## Tending Our Lamps — Jay Zinn • 11/6/11

**Review last two messages.** Edenic Covenant Chart on Powerpoint.

**Matt 17:1-2** After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was **transfigured** before them. **His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.** NIV

**2 Cor 3:17-18** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the **Lord's glory**, are being transformed **into his likeness** (image) with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. NIV

**2 Cor 4:3-6** ...if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the **light** of the gospel of the **glory** of Christ, who is the **image** of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let **light** shine out of darkness," made **his light** shine in our hearts to give us the **light** of the **knowledge** of the **glory of God—in the face of Christ.** NIV

**(Reversed Version)** Matt 6:22-23 — The eye is the lamp of the body. If your whole body is full of **light**, your eyes are good. But if your whole body is full of darkness, your eyes are bad. If then the **light** within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

John 1:4 — In him was **life**, and that life was the **light** of men.

John 8:12 — I am the **light** of the world. Whoever **follows me** will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of **life**.

### **Darkness vs. Light**

If you delight in God he will give you the desires of your hearts (**Psalm 37:4**). He will give you the grace, ability, and talent to carry out the desire he places in you to fulfill his kingdom purposes. This does two things:

**1) It provides for your needs.**

**2) It opens doors into the area of your talents for your light to shine among men.**

**My story:** God has placed a heart desire in me to **preach, paint, and publish** words.

That equates into God's kingdom of light in me—penetrating the darkness—and shifting the atmosphere of darkness through those three areas. All three areas provide an income, but more importantly, all three areas are used to penetrate darkness and shift the atmosphere where ever they touch.

### **Seven Cultural Mountains.**

There are seven cultural mountains that shape a nation and need the light of God's people.

- 1) **The Home**
- 2) **Religion**
- 3) **Civil Government**
- 4) **Arts & Entertainment** (including Sports)
- 5) **Media**
- 6) **Education**
- 7) **Business** (including Technology)

All of us have been positioned by God in some capacity in one of those cultural spheres. He placed you in one or more of those places strategically, even if it is only temporary, and even if it isn't where you want to be right now. **Was Joseph where he wanted to be in Pharaoh's prison?** No. But his gift of administration and management made his kingdom light shine and grant favor with the chief prison guard. God sent two servants of Pharaoh into the prison and used Joseph's gifts to interpret their dreams. Both came to pass, one servant was brought back before Pharaoh. Two years later Pharaoh had his own dream, without an interpreter. The butler remembered Joseph and Pharaoh brought him out of prison to interpret his dream. Joseph brought the interpretation, and threw in some kingdom wisdom and solutions that landed him the job of governor of Egypt. So...you don't like your job? **Work as though you were serving Jesus himself** (which you are), **and let your light shine before men** (through your job) **that they will see your value and glorify God because they know you're a Christian.** Value makes way for you just as Joseph's gift was valuable to Pharaoh and made way for him into Pharaoh's court.

**Did Daniel like being exiled** from his Judean home and family to Babylon? Did he like having his name changed by Nebuchadnezzar to that of a god that the Babylonian king worshiped? No. But his gift of interpreting dreams made room for him and brought him before the king. His light shined in the darkness and shifted the atmosphere of Babylon and the kings Daniel served under, and even extended on into influencing Medo-Persia kings who conquered Babylon. Daniel's influence laid the foundation for the Persian king, Cyrus, to learn of his destiny in God and send the Jews back to their homeland. Did Daniel's light shift the atmosphere or what?

**Did Paul like being whipped and thrown into prison?** No. But he was a gifted preacher and teacher of the gospel, and God used Paul's graces, gifts, and knowledge of scripture to shift the atmosphere of untold millions of souls through the letters he wrote while in prison. Let your light shine where you are whether you like where you are or not. It will shift the atmosphere of darkness around you and be used to open the eyes of the Gentiles.

As I shared with you before, God uses me in preaching, painting, and publishing which carries me into arenas God wants to advance his kingdom light to shift the atmosphere of darkness. I haven't always liked where I've been while God was developing me in those skills, but God shaped me and molded me on the potter's wheel to become a vessel of honor and not dishonor. I am to be a **light-bearer of his image** in my assigned fields of preaching, painting, and publishing. Where does your light shine? Will you let it shine no matter your circumstances?

## **Infiltration—Not Domination.**

When I speak of the **seven cultural mountains** that shape and influence nations I do not mean an ultimate transformation or domination by saints in those areas so that Christ can then return. I address these seven cultural mountains as those cultural spheres our lives touch where we can shift the atmosphere as God's light-bearers.

There is a long-standing, historical doctrine that goes back as far as Constantine which espouses that the world will be overcome and infused by Christians in all seven cultural mountains until the glory of the Lord will fill the earth and have dominion over all the kingdoms of men. This "kingdom now" or "dominion theology" has infiltrated much of the evangelical and Charismatic churches. It is man's effort to Christianize the world which is Christendom, not Christianity.

It is a doctrine that places kingdom dominion in the hands of carnal saints to "achieve" world domination rather than to be abandoned saints shining as lights in a world of darkness. Dominion theology has crept into the church on many fronts in many forms and is being played out on all levels through politics and the market place. Some churches walk in it in full scale, while others carry only pieces of it in their teachings. It shows up most strongly in eschatology and is the engine that drives many movements that believe Christendom will ultimately invade, transform, and take over all world governments. The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of Christ through Christian "intervention" ruling the ungodly and preparing a way for Jesus to return and rule. This sounds good and seems right, but it is a misunderstanding of God's ultimate purpose and how He plans to bring it about.

Religion merging with political systems to achieve domination requires money. Money and politics are inseparable. Politics is always about money and money is always involved in politics. Yet, Jesus said that you cannot serve both God and money. Eventually, the love of money corrupts all political systems.

As long as man continues to live, the sin nature will never be conquered through political dominion any more than liberalism can be annihilated by overwhelming the system with conservative politicians. Conservative politicians carry the same sin nature as liberal politicians and can also be tempted to compromise.

The Achilles' heel in Dominion Theology is that "dominionism" will never capture men's hearts and souls; it only enslaves them against their will in the same way theocratic Islamism does in its effort to dominate and control the world through Sharia law. You cannot, nor ever will, see the world forced to live morally by the laws of men under any religious banner. It didn't work in the Old Testament for Israel because God knew this was an issue of the heart. Christ will never dominate the freewill of man through laws. He didn't come to fix a broken world, or to fix fallen man. He came to show how depraved we were compared to his glorious divine nature. He came to show that religious deeds were incapable of changing hearts. And he came to exchange our broken nature with his divine nature, from the inside out.

A world controlled by Christians has been tried throughout church history. But it has never worked, won't work, and never will work because Christians are redeemed and forgiven, but not sinless. They have a sin nature that wrestles with the Spirit of God who lives in them; and, when mixed with power, politics and money, it remains difficult to resist the bastion of temptations, popular opinion, and demands of those who fund the campaigns of political leaders. Few men

have withstood it, and their names are found at strategic points in history where God's purposes prevailed to overcome a corrupt and dark world at a pivotal point in time.

The bottom line: Christians are not called to rule the world in this age through civil dominion or a religious dominion. If this were the case, then Jesus would have told his disciples—in agreement with Peter—to take up their swords and fight for him until they conquered all His enemies. That would only mirror The Crusades—Dominion Theology played out in history.

Christ's kingdom is not of this world. We are not of this world. We are in the world, but not of this world. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The truth is—according to scripture—the world and its systems will grow darker in the last days, while God's people grow brighter. The world's governments won't grow brighter, Christians will grow brighter. As Christians we have all the fullness of the Holy Spirit living within us, but we also have a carnal nature that resists the full manifestation of His glory. It will require an act of God's supernatural work to bring his full glory about. It will require a people who are yielded to their God, not for personal gain and comfort, but for his manifested glory acting through us—no matter the cost! God's glory is always preceded by suffering in a dark place. The world will oppose, kill, and destroy Christians, not submit to them. But that persecution will also fuel the church's glory and separate the wheat from the tares, the goats from the sheep, and the good fish from the bad fish.

The day will come where nominal Christians straddling the fence will cease. You'll either be with Christ or against him. There will be no middle ground, no room for gray areas. Christians who fill their lives with darkness (the absence of light), will have darkness in their eyes; but Christians who fill their lives with light, will radiate light through their eyes. The latter will be his light-bearers.

Jesus will use his church in the last days, not to dominate the world, but to set people free from worldly domination. Not to flee or escape tribulation, but to embrace it as God awakens the souls of men to the gospel message presented to them through a glorious church. The church will stand in great contrast to the darkness that pervades men's souls and offer one last chance to repent. Those in darkness will either come into the light to expose their deeds of darkness, or lose their soul to everlasting anguish when Christ returns to set up his kingdom among the sons and daughters of light who gave their lives to Him.

After Christ returns to set up a Christian Millennium of redeemed Jews and Gentiles, there will be no progressive domination or the need for it. The law of the Lord will be written on everyone's heart. There will be no sinners in the millennium to conquer or be forced to live by the Mosaic Law. Sinners will be gone, abiding in hell and the meek will inherit a redeemed earth that will no longer groan and travail for the freedom it's longed for since the day it became subjected to the corruption caused by the fall of man.

### **Rom 8:18-25**

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with **the glory that will be revealed** [unveiled] **in us**. The creation waits in eager expectation for the [fully mature] sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to

frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the **firstfruits** of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies**. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. NIV

## Tending to Your Lamps

### Matt 25:1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their **lamps** and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were **foolish** and five were **wise**. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took [extra] oil in jars along with their **lamps**. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your [extra] oil; **our lamps are going out**.'

"'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, [you] go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. **The virgins who were ready** went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

"Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." NIV

### Ex 37:17-24

They made the lampstand of **pure gold** and **hammered it out**, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms were of one piece with it. Six branches extended from the sides of the lampstand— three on one side and three on the other. Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms were on one branch, three on the next branch and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand. And on the lampstand were four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. One bud was under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair— six branches in all. The buds and the branches were all of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold. They made its **seven lamps**, as well as its **wick trimmers** and

trays, of pure gold. They made the lampstand and all its accessories from one talent of pure gold. NIV

#### **Lev 24:1-4**

The Lord said to Moses, "Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of **pressed** olives for the light so that the lamps may be **kept burning continually**. Outside the curtain of the Testimony in the Tent of Meeting, Aaron is to **tend the lamps** before the Lord from evening till morning, **continually**. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. The lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the Lord **must be tended continually**. NIV

#### **John 3:19-21**

This is the verdict: **Light** has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But **whoever lives by the truth comes into the light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." NIV

#### **2 Cor 6:14-18**

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or **what fellowship can light have with darkness?** What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? **For we are the temple of the living God**. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

"Therefore come out from them and **be separate**, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." NIV

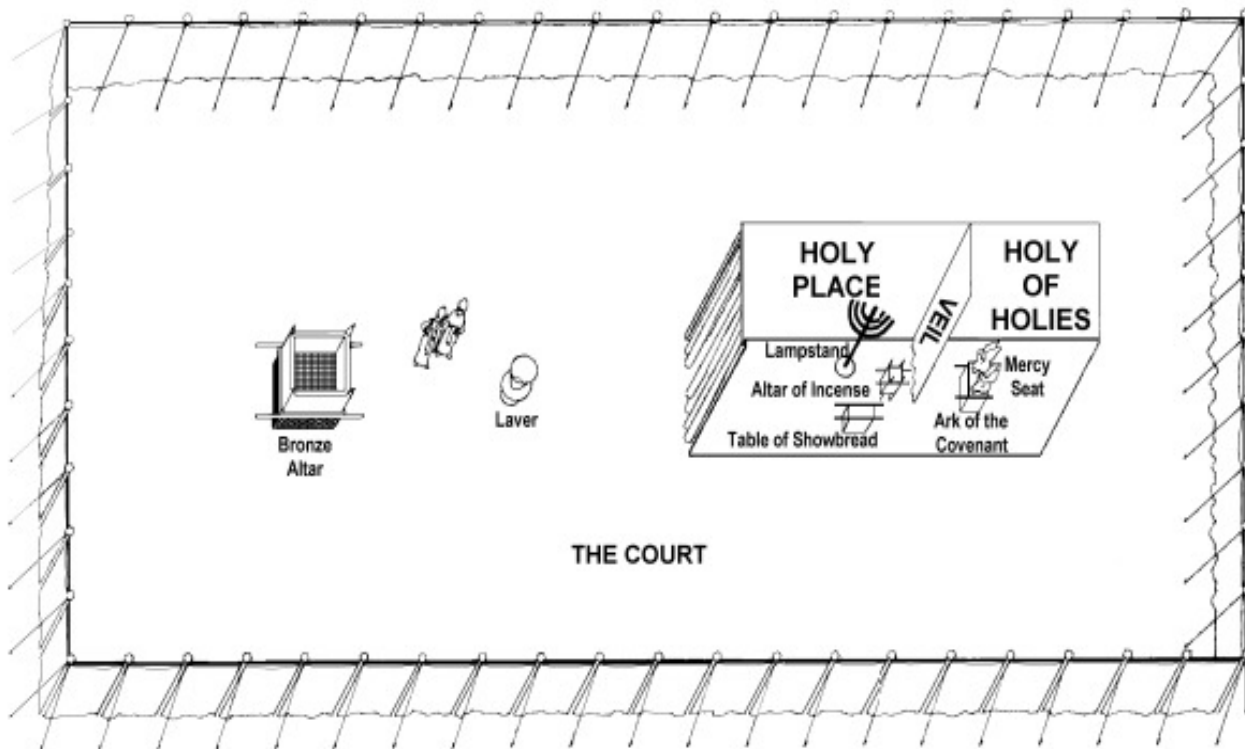
#### **1 John 1:5-7**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is **light**; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the **light**, as he is in the **light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. NIV

#### **By these scriptures, how do we tend to our Lamps?**

- 1.** The eye is the lamp which reflects the condition of our souls. Fill your soul with pure, pressed oil, and trim the charred fleshly sin out of your life so your lamp may burn brighter.
- 2.** Go where the light is. Fellowship with believers at church, stream teams, and discipleship groups. You cannot stay connected to the head if you're not connected to His body.
- 3.** Don't yoke yourself together with unbelievers in their dark activities (i.e. clubbing and partying).

4. Praying in tongues daily (continually) will fill the oil in your lamps.
5. Read and meditate on the word daily (continually) will trim the wick of your lamps. His word is a lamp unto your feet and light unto your path. It will trim the wick of your carnal flesh and make your light burn cleaner, brighter, and without smoke. Read Psalm 119 about a king's love for God's word and what it did to him and for him.
6. Commune with Jesus, the Person—not religion. He walked with the disciples, they walked in conversation with Him.



### Food for Thought:

- 1) I came to the *bronze altar* of **salvation** where my sins were burned up by the cross of Christ.
- 2) I proceeded to the *bronze laver* of **water baptism** where I rose to walk in the newness of life with Christ.
- 3) I then entered behind the veil into the Holy Place to the *seven-branched lampstand* to receive the anointing oil of the **baptism of fire in the Holy Ghost**. An anointing that will grow in ever-increasing glory as the chaff is burned out of my life.
- 4) I crossed the room to the *table of showbread* to learn how to **commune** with Christ and his body the believers (Spiritual Israel).
- 5) I moved then to the *altar of incense* to offer **prayers** as a sweet fragrance before the throne behind the second veil of the Holy of Holies.
- 6) Finally, in that day—the Day of **Atonement**—when the bridegroom comes for his bride, I will keep my lamp and jars full of oil, so that I may be ready to meet him behind the veil in the Holy of Holies. There I will become **one** with the Shekinah Glory of God emanating above the

*mercy seat.* Christ will be fully unveiled in me through the redemption of my body into a sinless temple, setting free the bondage of the earth that has been waiting for this day—that day when the glorious, sinless bride of Christ is released on the earth in the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ.

Jay

