

Don't Despise "The Day Of Small Things!"

ZECHARIAH 4:8-10

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- **Zechariah 4:8-10**

"Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that Jehovah of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath despised the day of small things? for these seven shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel; (these are) the eyes of Jehovah, which run to and fro through the whole earth."

Background Information:

- **The Southern Kingdom, Judah, taken captive.**

- Three Stages (606, Jehoiakim), (597, Jehoiachin), (586, Zedekiah). 2 Kings 25:7-9; 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 52:8-15

- **The Captivity lasted 70 years.**

- **Jeremiah 25:11-12**

- After 70 years God would bring them back. Jeremiah 29:10.
- He mentioned (by name, even before he was born!) CYRUS, who would allow Gods people to return to their land, and begin rebuilding the temple. Isaiah 45:28.

Background (continued)

- **As prophesied, Babylon fell to the Medo-Persians, and Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to their land and begin rebuilding. Ezra 1:1-2**

- A remnant of nearly 50,000 Jews, led by Zerubbabel, returned and began to rebuild. Ezra 2.
- They laid the foundation; it was a time of rejoicing. Ezra 3:10-11.
- But the "people of the land" sought to stop the work. Ezra 4:4
- The work on the temple ceased for around 16 years. Ezra 4:24

Background (continued)

- **God Then raised up two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah (520 BC), who insisted that they rebuild the temple, Ezra 5:1-2.**

- Haggai shamed them for their lack of priorities. Haggai 1:5.
- Zerubbabel, and others then went to work. Haggai 1:14.
- Zechariah, the prophet, stated that what the hands of Zerubbabel had begun, his hands would also finish. Zechariah 4:10

Important Fact!

- **Zechariah also prophetically looked beyond the physical temple they built to the spiritual temple Jesus would build. Zechariah 6:12-13.**

- Jesus is "the Branch." cf. Isaiah 11:1; Romans 15:8, 12
- Jesus promised to build His church. Matthew 16:18, which is His temple. Ephesians 2:16, 19-21
- Zechariah 6:12-13 – Jesus to be both priest and king!
 - ✦ He is now our High priest. Hebrew 8:1; 10:21; 1 Timothy 3:15
 - ✦ And He is "King of kings and Lord of lords." 1 Timothy 6:15

Examine the Text – Zechariah 4:8-10

- **“The word of the Lord came unto me.” 4:8**
 - Introducing a prophetic oracle. cf. 6:9; 7:1,8; 8:1,18
- **Zerubbabel would finish what he started. 4:9**
 - Even though between Ezra 4:24 and Zechariah 4:9, a delay of 16 years!
 - Being thus discouraged they had concluded the time had not come for them to rebuild. Haggai 1:2
 - But the perceived “mountain” of hardship would become a “plain,” so that he who laid the foundation stone would lay the capstone. Zechariah 4:7
 - Formerly they had despised “*the day of small things*,” Zechariah 4:10, failing to realize that God can take the “*small things*” and do great things!

“Small Things” – God used in the Past:

In the Form of “People”:

- Abraham, the son of an idolater, Joshua 24:2, to become the father of a great nation. Genesis 12:1-2
- Moses, who tended Jethro’s flock, to be the one to lead Israel out of bondage. Exodus 3:1, 10
- David, a shepherd boy, killed the giant Goliath, and won the battle against the Philistines. 1 Samuel 17
- Uneducated fishermen, became “*fishers of men*.” Matthew 4:18-22
- Saul, an enemy of Christ, became the great apostle Paul. Acts 7:58; 8:1; 9:1

“Small Things” – God used in the Past:

In the Form of “Things”:

- Moses’ rod. Exodus 4:1-5
- One smooth stone. 1 Samuel 17
- Samson used the jawbone of a donkey and killed 1,000 Philistines. Judges 15:15-16
- A little meal and a jar of oil sustained a widow through years of famine. 1 Kings 17:16
- Five barley loaves and two small fish. Matthew 14:13-21
- The tiniest of seeds can produce the greatest of herbs. Matthew 13:31-32

Poem (from “This Grace Also”):

- “Shamgar had an oxgoad; Rahab had a string.
Gideon had a trumpet; David had a sling.
Samson had a jawbone, Moses had a rod.
Dorcas had a needle, But all were used for God.”

Important Fact: The Kingdom of God started out as a small stone which filled the whole earth. Daniel 2:35, 44!

Application:

- **We must not despise “The Day of Small Things!”**
- **So often we delight in the “big preachers,” the “brotherhood figures.”**
 - But some have led brethren into apostasy!
 - Often times the real work is done behind the scenes by unknown saints concerned about saving souls.
- **And we delight in those who make evangelistic journeys into difficult areas.**
 - But we tend to overlook their wives back home who keep the home fires burning, make many sacrifices, or the countless ones who sacrificially give to make such evangelism possible.

“Small Things” – God can use to Great Advantage:

- Saints who make phone calls, write cards, letters, visit the sick, do countless “small things.”
- Saints who consistently encourage those who need it. Hebrews 10:24
- Many like Barnabas (Acts 4:34-37), who give liberally, stick their necks out for others, give others a second chance.
- Saints who look for opportunities to share the gospel, arrange Bible classes for others to teach.

“Small Things” God can use (continued)



- Christians who are “*given to hospitality*,” open their homes for special studies, share meals, give others opportunities to interact.
- Christians who, though hindered by age, ill health, and discouragements, make it a point to attend every service possible.
- Christians who, regardless of the circumstances, manage to “*shine as lights in the world*.”

Conclusion:



- “*A cup of cold water ... in the name of a disciple*” means much in the sight of the Lord. Matthew 10:42.
- A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. “*Small things*” add up! With God “*all things are possible*.” Matthew 19:26
- It is a long way from earth to heaven, but it begins with one’s obedience to the gospel!