



NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAYS THE LORD

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NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAYS THE LORD (Zechariah 4:6).

The people of God had returned from the Babylonian captivity to rebuild the Temple and the Walls of Jerusalem (538 B.C. at the time of Cyrus the Great of Persia). They numbered only about 50,000 under the governor Zerubbabel, were poor, worn out, ill-equipped, and despised by surrounding nations. Opposition delayed the work for some years. Yet, with the encouragement of God's leaders and prophets they attempted what seemed an impossible task. They were constantly harassed, endured much opposition and threats, and were troubled by their own sense of inadequacy, yet by God's power they finished the work. We see that:

- They **doubted** it could be done (1:2)
- They were **distracted** by opposition, and by their own interests (they built their own houses at the expense of God's work –Haggai 1:4)
- The **despised** small things (4:10)

Zechariah prophesied to the people of Judah (520-516 B.C.) exhorting them to finish what they had started, and that God was with them, and that it would not be accomplished by human power of might, but by God's Spirit through them.

We too may be tempted to doubt God and what he wills to do through our lives. We too may be distracted by what the enemy is doing, by opposition, or challenges, or by being caught up too much in our own interests, rather than the interests of Christ (Phil 2:21). We too may despise the small things; thinking too little of ourselves and what God can accomplish through small things, even seemingly small people, or small deeds.

But we can be people who **do not doubt but believe** God's promise.

We can be people who are **not distracted but devoted** to God and His calling upon our lives, and to His work.

We can be people who **do not despise small things, but dare to step out in faith** believing that God can use our gifts, talents, and resources for His Kingdom purposes, and knowing that:

It is not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the LORD (Zech 4:6).

Key themes of Zechariah (esv.org)

When you read this, ask yourself, 'who does this remind me of?'

1. **The need to turn back to the Lord in repentance to serve Him with sincerity (1:1-6)**
2. **The Lord's concern and care for the people's difficulties (1:8-17; 4:10)**
3. **Jerusalem's future expansion and blessing (2:4,12; 8:1-8; 14:16)**
4. **The permanent removal of the people's sin (3:5); and of idolatry and false prophecy (13:2-6)**
5. **The importance of the Temple as a source of God's blessing (Ch 4)**
6. **The Lord's wrath at the Nations who plundered Judah and Jerusalem (1:18-21; 14 3-5)**

- 7. The Divine warriors return to terrorize Israel's foes (9:1-8), and the coming of the Branch, a Davidic ruler who will save His people, cleanse their sins, and establish peace (3:8; 6:9-15; 9:9-10)**
- 8. The pouring out of God's Spirit, resulting in repentance and the opening of a fountain for cleansing of sin (12:10 -13:1)**
- 9. Judgment on wicked Shepherds and their replacement by a good Shepherd (11:1-17)**
- 10. The striking of the good Shepherd and the scattering of the flock (13:7-9)**
- 11. The Lord's final triumph over the Nations (Ch14)**

So, we see very clearly the Lord at work to fulfill His purposes and promises to and through His people. They were called to be God's light to the Nations, and through them He would bring about the coming of a Saviour to bring Salvation, not only to them, but to the whole World.

Key take-aways today:

1. It takes a heart of faith to trust that God will bring about His promises and work through us – BY HIS SPIRIT! *Our response is important!*
2. We live beyond merely domestic personal concerns; we live for His coming Kingdom in the here and now. To this we are called; each one of us.
3. We are not to despise small things but continue to serve him faithfully with our gifts and talents believing that God will do great things through us!

Maybe, today is a time to answer afresh the call of God upon our lives to serve Him wholeheartedly, for His glory, and for His purposes.

It is time to put our hand to the plough even though we may seem small, our gifts small.

Perhaps it is time to again believe that it is NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAYS THE LORD!

This is how God achieves His work and will through us! PTL!