

Zechariah 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

Analysis

For who hath despised the day of small things?—Rhetorical question rebuking those who scorned the modest scale of the Second Temple. The Hebrew *mī bāz ləyōm qətannōt* (מִי בָּז לְיּוֹם קַטָּנוֹת) 'who has despised the day of small things') addresses the discouragement voiced when the foundation was laid: 'Many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice' (Ezra 3:12). Compared to Solomon's temple, this structure seemed pathetic (Haggai 2:3).

For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth—But God doesn't measure by human metrics. The 'eben habədīl (אָבֵן הַבְּדִיל), 'plummet stone/measuring line') in Zerubbabel's hand proves the building's alignment and progress. The 'seven eyes' (from v. 2, the seven lamps) represent the Spirit's omniscient oversight. *Hēmmāh 'ēynē Yahweh hamməshōtētīm* (הֵם מֵהָעֵינָה כָּלָמְשֻׁבְטִים) 'they are the eyes of the LORD running to and fro') echoes 2 Chronicles 16:9, depicting God's complete knowledge surveying all earth. God watches Zerubbabel's small work with the same eyes that oversee nations. Heaven celebrates 'small things' accomplished by faith, not grand achievements built by pride.

Historical Context

The Second Temple, completed in 516 BC, stood for nearly 500 years until Herod's renovations began (20 BC). Though modest compared to Solomon's glory, it witnessed the return of Jewish worship, the Maccabean rededication, and ultimately the Messiah's teaching and cleansing. Jesus Himself ministered in this 'despised' temple, proving that God's presence, not architectural magnificence, determines a building's significance (Matthew 21:12-13; John 2:13-22).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'small things' in your spiritual life do you despise that God may celebrate?
2. How does knowing God's 'seven eyes' watch your faithfulness change your perspective on 'small' obedience?
3. Why is human comparison (this temple versus Solomon's) a faithless metric versus God's pleasure?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמַחַת	בְּזִמְנָה	לִי	וּמִקְטָנוֹת	וְשָׁמַחַת
H3805	H4310	For who hath despised	the day	of small things
H936			H3117	H6996
וְנִרְאֶת	אַתָּה	בְּאַבְנֵל	בְּפַדְלֵל	זְרֻבָּבֶל
and shall see	H853	the plummet	H913	in the hand of Zerubbabel
H7200		H68		H2216
שְׁבַעַת	אֵלֶּה	עֵינֵי	יְהִי הָ	בְּמָה
with those seven	H428	they are the eyes	of the LORD	H1992
H7651		H5869		H3068
מְשׁוּבָטִים	בְּכָל	בְּאָרֶץ		
which run to and fro	H3605	through the whole earth		
H7751		H776		

Additional Cross-References

Job 8:7 (Parallel theme): Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (References Lord): For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Haggai 2:3 (Parallel theme): Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

Proverbs 15:3 (References Lord): The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Revelation 5:6 (Parallel theme): And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been

slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Proverbs 4:18 (Parallel theme): But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Zechariah 3:9 (References Lord): For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

Isaiah 66:11 (Parallel theme): That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.

Isaiah 66:14 (References Lord): And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

Revelation 8:2 (Parallel theme): And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

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