

# “by my Spirit”

September 06, 2020

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,”  
says the Lord Almighty (Zechariah 4:6)

## Historical background

539BC Cyrus of Persia conquers Babylon and decrees that the Jewish exiles can return home to Jerusalem.

538BC The first of three waves of refugees (42,360 in total) return 900 miles on foot, after walking for almost four months

536BC Work on rebuilding the temple is begun

534BC Work stops

520BC Two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, encourage the people to finish the work they abandoned

515BC The temple is finally completed

## Biographical background

Zerubbabel is found in 1 Chronicles 3:19 (see also Matt. 1:12-13) in the royal line of King David. He was the great grandson of the last king of Judah, Jehoiachin. In the writings of Ezra and Haggai, Zerubbabel is commonly referred to as “Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel” (Ezra 3:2; 5:2; Haggai 1:1). According to 1 Chron. 3:19, he was the grandson of Shealtiel, son of Pedaiiah. He is often mentioned in connection with Jeshua (alt. Joshua), son of Jozadak (alt. Jehozadak), the high priest. Zerubbabel in the kingly line, and Joshua in the priestly line are the chosen ones to rebuild the temple and restore temple worship. Zerubbabel’s and Joshua’s early role as leaders was every bit as important as Nehemiah’s later role in rebuilding the walls.

## **God will do what we cannot, but He won’t do what we will not.**

1. The inadequacy of human “*might*” and “*power*” (4:6)

We need an Armageddon of the **ego**

a. “*might*” **resources**, Heb. “*size of army*”

They didn’t have the manpower, the people to do it

b. “*power*” **resolve**, Heb. “*strength of effort*”

What sapped their strength?

- Procrastination (Haggai 1:2)
- **Priorities** (Haggai 1:3-9)

2. The indispensable work of the Spirit (ruah = breath/wind) (4:6)

- In **creation** (Genesis 1:2)
- In opening and closing the Red Sea (Exodus 15:8, 10)
- In bringing the dead to **life** (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
- In new birth in Christ (John 3:5-8)

3. God **levels** the playing field (4:7a, see also Isa. 40:4)

“*What [Who] are you, O mighty mountain?*” (Matt. 17:20)

A **mountain** of opposition and practical problems

4. God promises a good ending (4:7b)

“*bring out the capstone to shouts of “Grace! Grace to it!”*”

Jesus said, “I will build **My** church.” (Matthew 16:18)

OT—God’s people are in His temple

NT—God’s temple is in His **people** (2 Cor. 6:16)

5. God affirms his chosen leader (4:8-9)

Leaders are often the target when we get upset with God

6. God loves a good **beginning** (4:10)

Negative attitudes and destructive criticism are ungodly.

*Who despises the day of small things?*