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Lyer meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on
Saturday evening 10.7.71

Hymns 966, 339

Reading: Zechariah 4

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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTIST 71J/PM

This chapter has a confirming word in relation to the promise of success of Zerubbabel's foundation, that is to say in as much as his hands have laid the foundation of the house, the same hands will also finish it. How beautifully this refers in type to the Lord Jesus. He is the foundation laid in Zion (Isaiah 28.16). But here by His hands the foundations are laid, as it were, and by the same hands completed. This will be an everlasting matter of praise and glory to His blessed Majesty for ever.

In the chapter reference is made to small things, and to great things. Reference is made to small things in verse 10, "Who hath despised the day of small things?" It was a day of small things, for even when the foundations of the temple were laid they were so insignificant comparatively that the elders who had seen the glory of the first temple wept with a loud voice, and yet there was a greater promise as relating to the second temple, for it is said, "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former" (Haggai 2.9). It was at that time a day of small things, so it is today, it is a day of small things in the church generally speaking as compared with former days, but even so the promise was given that although it was a day of small things yet they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven". It may appear to be a day of small things with a poor sinner when the Lord begins with him, and he is shown himself, but the time comes when the same poor sinner rejoices in the precious Gospel, and sees the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel. There is reference also to great things, that is in the prediction that "the headstone shall be brought forth with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it", and "Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain". These are confirming words, it was indeed a great mountain rising before them, but they were not told to level it by their own strength, for it is said, "Not by

might, nor by power" - that is not by human might or power - "but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts". Many mountains may be too high for us but there will never be one too high for our spiritual heavenly Zerubbabel. It will be a day of great things when the headstone thereof is brought forth with shoutings, all will then be to the praise of His holy and blessed name. We read in the Psalms of those that had long been weeping and mourning by the rivers of Babylon for it had long been a day of small things, but when the Lord appeared and delivered them, even the heathen said, "The Lord hath done great things for them". If the Lord has touched our heart in mercy He has done something great. "Before Zerubbabel" - not before their might and power - "before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain".

So it is when Christ is seen by faith as He is at times, and something of His power and glory comes before our view as we have been singing,

"Then mountains sink at once to plains,
And light from darkness springs;
Each seeming loss improves their gains;
Each trouble comfort brings."

May the Lord help us to put our trust in Him, for although there may be much to cast us down yet there is this for our comfort and encouragement. May the Lord give us to see the plummet in His hand. He makes no mistake, He knows the end from the beginning, He knows how to handle the plummet, He is the best builder that ever was, He knows where to place every stone, and what to do with it. May the Lord help us to cast our care upon Him. Amen.