

## ***The Necessity of Cultivating a Culture of Grace (Zech. 4:6-10)***

### **I. TWO VISIONS THAT ENCOURAGED ZERUBBABEL AND JOSHUA (ZECH. 3-4)**

- A. In 520 BC, the prophet Zechariah received two visions (on the same night) that brought great encouragement to the two primary leaders responsible for rebuilding the house of prayer (temple). Those leaders were *Joshua*, the high priest (Zech. 3), and *Zerubbabel*, the governor (Zech. 4).
- B. The Lord addressed the main obstacles that hinder His people from walking out their destiny.
  - 1. Obstacles related to their *personal sin*—He provides spiritual cleaning (Zech. 3). That is, in Zechariah 3, He *cleanses their heart* and leads them to wholehearted obedience (3:3-7).
  - 2. Obstacles related to their *deficiencies and resources*—He gives supernatural help (Zech. 4). That is, in Zechariah 4, He *helps their work* and values it even when it is small (4:6-10).

### **II. SPEAK GRACE TO THE MOUNTAIN (ZECH. 4:6-10)**

- A. The Zechariah 4 vision gave instruction and assurance to Zerubbabel on how to mobilize the people and overcome all the obstacles to complete the temple through the Spirit's help.
- B. God's purpose and power would prevail over the obstacles as they spoke "words of grace" (4:6-7).

***"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. <sup>7</sup>'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain and he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"'" (Zech. 4:6-7)***

- 1. ***Mountain***: This speaks of the many obstacles against them including the *Samaritans'* civil opposition (Ezra 4:1-8; 5:6-17); *Israel's* compromise and strife (1:2-4; 8:10; Hag. 1:2-4, 9); an *economic crisis* intensified by drought and agricultural failures (Hag. 1:1-11); and the *rubble in Jerusalem*—the rubble from the destruction of the temple still need to be cleared.
  - 2. ***Shall become a plain***: The heap of rubble would become a plain as the temple was rebuilt.
  - 3. ***Not by might or power***: The terms *might* and *power* speak of human ability and resources. Human power will never be sufficient to remove all the mountains of opposition.
  - 4. ***The capstone***: The capstone was put in place when the temple project was finished.
  - 5. ***Shouts of grace***: Zerubbabel was to speak graciously to the people and to speak grace over them, the ministry, and the "mountains of opposition" as he prayed for God's blessing.
- C. Zerubbabel was assured that he would succeed in finishing the temple (4:9) and that the eyes of the Lord rejoiced in Zerubbabel's work and diligence even during his season of "small things" (4:10). A plumb line is a tool used at the beginning of a building project that is still small and unformed.

***<sup>9</sup>"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation...his hands shall also finish it...<sup>10</sup>"For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of***

*Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.” (Zech. 4:9-10)*

### III. THE IMPORTANCE AND POWER OF SPEAKING WORDS OF GRACE

- A. Grace flows from Jesus’ words; they include words of kindness, wisdom, and power.

*<sup>2</sup>“You are fairer [more beautiful] than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever.” (Ps. 45:2)*

*<sup>22</sup>“So all...marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth...<sup>32</sup>“And they were astonished at His teaching [wisdom]...<sup>36</sup>Then they were all amazed...saying, “What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits...” (Lk. 4:22, 32, 36)*

- B. Jesus calmed a violent storm by His words (Mt. 8:23-27; 14:24-33; Mk 4:36-41; 6:45-51).

*<sup>24</sup>“Suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea...But He was asleep. <sup>25</sup>Then His disciples...awoke Him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’<sup>26</sup>But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful...’ He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” (Mt. 8:24-26)*

- C. Paul exhorted us to make sure that our speech is seasoned with grace, like salt.

*“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt...” (Col. 4:6)*

- D. Be intentional about speaking in the opposite spirit of frustration, anger, fear or offense.

*<sup>44</sup>“...bless those who curse you...and pray for those who spitefully use you...” (Mt. 5:44)*

- E. As a virtuous woman has “the law of kindness” on her lips (Prov. 31:26), so also the end-time Bride will be prepared by learning to speak grace in the midst of the storm (Rev 19:7).

*“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.” (Prov. 31:26)*

- F. Satan uses a spirit of accusation and complaint. The Lord rebuked and refused the complaint.

*<sup>1</sup>Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing...to accuse him. <sup>2</sup>The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you...” (Zech. 3:1-2)*

- G. The enemy wants God’s people to speak out of anger, frustration, complaint, and accusation. James exhorted us to speak carefully, knowing that speaking out of anger or frustration does not cause God’s purpose to be fulfilled, but rather it causes it to be hindered (Jas 1:19-20).

*<sup>19</sup>But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God [fulfill God’s purpose]. (Jas 1:19-20, NAS)*

### I. SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

*Pick one question to answer at a time. Go around the group clockwise. Do this again—time permitting.*

***Question #1:*** Describe a time when you spoke “grace” into a challenging situation or relationship that resulted in God’s blessing being released and/or your heart being changed.

***Question #2:*** Identify one point that inspired you in the meeting today. How will you apply it?

***Question #3:*** Describe a prophetic promise that you are regularly contending for by speaking grace.