

Introduction

I. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND OF ZECHARIAH 4

Zechariah 4:1-10 - Vision of lampstand, olive trees, and encouragement to Zerubbabel

Historical setting: Post-exilic rebuilding after Babylonian captivity

Zerubbabel's role and challenges

II. TWO MESSAGES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Not by might nor by power, but by God's Spirit (v.6-7)

Mountain = obstacles to rebuilding

God's power vs. human effort

Hands of Zerubbabel will finish the work (v.8-10)

'Day of small things' - small beginnings matter

III. APPLICATION: OVERCOMING OBSTACLES IN OUR SMALL BEGINNINGS

1. Construction challenges _____

2. Differences of opinion within the church _____

3. The '10% obstacle' – finishing is hardest _____

IV. RELYING ON GOD'S SPIRIT AND UNITY

Prayer and humble dependence over worry and self-effort _____

Unity in love as witness to the world (John 13:35) _____

Matthew 28:20 – Jesus with us to the end _____

V. BIBLICAL PRECEDENT FOR GIVING AND PLANNING

2 Corinthians 9:5 – Planned, bountiful gift as pledge _____

Difference between tithe and pledge _____

Importance of informing elders for planning _____

VI. ENCOURAGEMENT FROM CHURCH HISTORY AND PERSONAL APPLICATION

Choctaw church's 58-year history: small beginnings to great impact _____

Small beginnings in personal faith: baptism and renewal _____