

# **This is the Day...Tuesday**

**October 5, 2021**

## **Building a Beautiful Sanctuary**

*“This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty” (Zechariah 4:6)*

Haggai and Zechariah are minor prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Bible, they describe the rebuilding of the temple after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon. It was an interesting dedication ceremony when the new temple was completed. Typically, the people would shout for joy at the completion of the temple construction. But many of the leaders who remembered Solomon’s temple actually wept aloud because, in their opinion, the new temple was not nearly as glorious as the old temple. Some were still joyful, but many were deflated and sad that the glory days of Solomon’s temple were over. You can imagine that this caused a great deal of confusion at the dedication ceremony.

During that time of confusion, God gave Haggai and Zechariah an amazing, beautiful prophecy. There at the dedication ceremony stood Joshua, a high priest, and Zerubbabel, the governor who had been in charge of the construction. Through the prophets, God indicated that Joshua and Zerubbabel were like symbols of Christ, who would offer the sacrifice that would purify us forever and build the Lord’s church. And God said that the new temple would be built, “not by might, nor by power, but by God’s Spirit!”

Regardless of how strong or intelligent we may consider ourselves to be, there are some things that simply cannot be done by human hands. We can erect buildings made of bricks and mortar with tall steeples, beautiful stained-glass windows, and ornate trim. We can create great houses of worship that seat thousands with magnificent sound systems and wide-screen monitors. But after all the money is spent and all the construction is completed, all we have is a beautiful building to admire. A house of God cannot be built by human hands. Some of the greatest houses of God in the world have no stained-glass or steeples which reach to the sky. The glory of their architecture is not found in the ornate trim or the mammoth size. The glory is found in the presence of the Spirit of God.

The same is true with every human life. We are God’s “Living Sanctuary.” Some are taller and some are shorter. We come in different colors, and have many other unique outward characteristics. But the beauty of our external selves is not what makes us God’s Sanctuary. That comes by the Spirit of God which lives in us. Striving to be a Sanctuary is not accomplished by human hands. Not by might, not by power, but by God’s Spirit. When God’s spirit is present, the vessel becomes His dwelling place, His Sanctuary. And we become beautiful symbols of Christ in the world.