



A Nail In His Holy Place

“... to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage” (Ezra 9:8).

Bulletin VCM-098

17 December 2017

“And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage” (Ezra 9:8).

God has the knack for beginning great things in small ways. He populated the world through Adam and Eve, started the nation of Israel through a barren family of Abraham and Sarah; and brought universal salvation through baby Jesus born in a manger. To you and me he promised “A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time” (Isaiah 60:22). A prophet characterised this when he penned “For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth” (Zechariah 4:10). Never forget that the giant oak tree grew from a small acorn seed!

Israel had been in captivity for so long that they even lost hope of recovery (Ezekiel 37:1-14). The beginning of their restoration started as “a little space” of grace from God for the remnant “to give us a nail in his holy place” (Ezra 9:8). Synonyms to nail include words like peg, stake and pin from which several phrases have been developed including “clinging on by the nail” and “put a stake in the ground”. The New English Translation of the Bible renders this text as “... and has given us a secure position in His holy place”.

A nail may not be a big item in a holy place and could be unseen, but it serves a vital purpose of holding the wood in place thereby creating a framework for further development. So, a nail that does its work provide a base for progress. The key messages from God from this text are:

1) Recognise divine openings for significant breakthroughs which may start as a little space of grace / favour. The mighty rain that

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was going to end three and a half years of famine in Israel began as “a little cloud ... like a man’s hand” (1 Kings 18:44). The signal that Isaac was going to inherit The Promised Land started by cessation of strive for water wells in a desolate man that the inhabitants were not interested in “And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land (Genesis 26:22). So when God makes room for you in a place that nobody wants, take that as a symbol of the beginning of fruitfulness. Remember Jesus’ admonition “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

2) Recognise God’s purpose for your life and value your place in the Kingdom of God. A nail in the holy place is better than all other nails elsewhere. “For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness” (Psalms 84:10). If God makes you a nail in his holy place, do not envy the nails in the supermarkets. Rather, faithfully discharge your responsibilities and hold fast tenaciously to the things assigned to you. Remember that a nail in the holy place

- ◇ can do what other items of furniture or the worshippers in the holy place cannot do.
- ◇ Is an enabler for other furniture and worshippers.

- ◇ Must stay in its place (stand its ground) and stay the course for the function in the holy place to go on.

3) Keep your focus on the coming reviving and full liberation "... that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage" (Ezra 9:8) "When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them. 3 The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. 4 Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south. 5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalms 126:1-6).

4) Make preparations for growth and enlargement from the Lord "Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. 2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. 4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. 5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called" (Isaiah 54:1-5).

5) Obey His commands even if they seem foolish "The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. 4 Again he said

unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord. 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. 9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. 12 Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord." (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

6) Take the risk to do your part for there may be no other person suitably placed to do it. "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16).

7) Pray "Lord make me a faithful nail in your holy place, even when hidden"..