

Hugo Bouter

# Showing favor to the dust of Zion

*“You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come. For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favor to her dust.”*

Psalm 102:13-14

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When is the right time for revival among God's children, and the prospect of spiritual restoration? We can count on God's mercy when we show a good disposition and heed the biblical principles of gathering and building the Church. In this, God's servants in Jerusalem were characterized by two things, as we see in the rebuilding of the wall and gates of the city at the time of Nehemiah:

- They took pleasure in the stones of Jerusalem.
- They had compassion on the rubble, the dust of the city.

When it comes to the Church, the dwelling place of God in the Spirit, in a time of decay we also have to deal with rubble due to human failures, but fortunately also with the living stones – true Christian believers, young and old – who are needed for the building of God's house (Eph. 2; 1 Pet. 2:1-10). Is it our joy to add and build up living stones on the foundation laid by the death and resurrection of Christ, the living Stone par excellence? This certainly takes labor and effort, but the reward is also certain and will stand forever in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21).

The rubble or dust is everything that results from the failures of God's people in the past in the building of His spiritual house. Things have been destroyed and gone wrong. This should not make us indifferent, but rather we should have compassion for all those involved, such as brothers and sisters who have been unjustly excluded from fellowship with God's people due to partisanship. Then the rubble will not

continue to accumulate, but will be removed, so that something of the radiant beauty of God's holy temple will once again be seen (Eph. 2:19-22). Are you gratefully using the opportunities available in the Master's service and helping to erase the marks of human failure?

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