

“The Coming Glory of God’s House” – Haggai 2:1-9

INTRO: I love to hear stories of what God has done in the past building His “house”. But even more I love to hear about what God is going to do in His “house” (I WILL BE A PART OF THAT!)

- work has begun on God’s temple, Haggai is given another message about the glory of this temple and the future glory that is to come (beyond man’s expectations).

**What does this section of scripture mean for me?*

1) As I build now this temple (my life) I am encouraged with His work in the past and His promise of the future... “He is with me”.

2) As I build I must keep my eyes on the end goal ...JESUS’ GLORY in my life...

(Eph. 1:12 “That we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”)

I. THE FORMER GLORY IN MAN’S EYES: (V. 1-5)

A. EXAMINING THE TIME: (1-2)

- (1) almost a month later (Tishri – Sept/Oct), foundation cleared, outline of building seen, encouragement comes at an appropriate time. (7th day of Feast of Tabernacles – Lev. 23:39-43)
 - o Celebration: Fruit of the land gathered & offered up as a sacrifice; people dwelling in shelters/booths remembering God’s care through the wilderness...NOW different/discouraging – people remembering past (abundant fruits – now bleak crops; temple glory – now just a “hut”; feast pointed toward a glorious gathering & restoration of Israel: kingdom rest – now “not so glorious”) Depressing... questioning in heart...“is it really time? Could this really happen?”

- (2) God moves Haggai (“festive”) to speak again... prophecy in His Name (forth-tell & fortell)

2 Peter 1:21 – “for prophecy never came by will of men, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

- Moved to speak to all the people involved in this building project (leaders/ lay people).

B. EVALUATING THE TEMPLE: (3)

- 70 yrs. of captivity – many did not know about the former temple (oral stories). When work began, weeping began too! Shouts of joy; wails of grief...mixed responses.

Ezra 3:12-13 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off.

- Haggai speaks to the older generation that was discouraging the present work with their words & attitudes. In their eyes this temple was “nothing” = “to not exist”.
- Understandably so: Solomon’s Temple was glorious...greater than any other structure on earth... (magnitude, wealth, glory)
 - Everything was overlaid with gold, glistened with stones,...2 Chr. 3:8 – Holy of Holies alone was 600 talents of gold. (1 talent = 75 lbs. x price of gold today = \$816.5 million!...not including land value, silver, bronze, wood, spices, porch, instruments!... building alone worth \$56 billion!)
- These men made 2 mistakes:
 - 1) *compared the present with the past*. Always a danger: (living in past glories – “weight”... Past testimonies are important to future work...encourage, build up; but people stuck in the past easily hinder a future work. (attitudes – complaining, comparing, discouraging) Remember, rejoice, but don’t stay there...focus ahead)
 - Be a part of what God is doing today with excitement, vigor @ ministry opportunities.
- 2) *looked at the temporary instead of eternal*. God is always looking at the eternal... ahead to future work...glory of Jesus.

C. EXHORTATING IN THE TRUTH: (4-5)

- (4) be strong & work:

1 Chr. 28:10 (words of David to Solomon in building) Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it."

1 Chr. 28:20 And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God--my God--will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

- It was for every man in his duties: Zerubbabel: don't despise the day of small beginnings (Zech. 4:10), lead boldly, great diligence/ Joshua: perform your duties as priest, call of God/ people: don't dwell on past glories, but consider what God is doing presently (captivity, exhortation to build, promises).
- Message was simple: "Don't be overwhelmed @ work to do, don't focus on past, don't discourage others...new work, new heart, new joys, new grace...TODAY!
- (4) "Work for I am with you" (presence brings grace: promise – right standing/ protection - from enemies, fears gone, boldness to do what's pleasing in His eyes)

* As long as He is with us we take courage. Nothing invigorates a worker for God more than knowing He is with us. Relieves pressures, settles discouragements in heart, empowers hands and feet to act diligently.

- (5) God takes them back to His promised covenant from Egypt (Feast of Tabernacles – remembering this time: deliverance from bondage, God's faithfulness).

Exodus 33:12-15 Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

- God gave them His presence (Spirit of God)- pillar of cloud, fire @ night; fed them, watered them, cared for them, brought them into the land then... now the same. Through all the faithlessness of Israel He was still faithful to His promise.

II. THE FUTURE GLORY IN GOD'S EYES: (V. 6-9)

A. WORK TO COME: (6-9A)

- beyond Solomon's Temple or even Zerubbabel's work was God's future glory (His kingdom)
3 things will happen:

1. **(6-7a) Shaking**: just as on Mt. Sinai the earth shook as God spoke, all things quake (fear) again...heavens, earth, sea, dry land, people... (from creation to nations it all shakes as God moves!)

Is. 24:19-20 The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is **shaken exceedingly**. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.

2 Peter 3:10-12 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Heb. 12:25-29 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

- * Everything man glories in and values is dissolved...gone in a moment. Shaken down to nothing.
- - disciples with Jesus..."Look at these stones (temple)..." (Lk. 21:5-6) 70 A.D. Temple burned down.
- When will this take place?

After the Great Tribulation on earth Jesus will come in Glory and set up His Kingdom which will have no end. (Dan. 2:44)

2. **(7b) Drawing: to Jesus.**

- “Desire of all nations” = “*delights, treasures or desirable things of all nations*”
 - 2 fold: 1) Millennial Temple: nations will come with their treasured gifts to Jerusalem’s Temple to serve Jesus.

Is. 60:4-7 “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory.

2) Future drawing to Jesus – all true riches culminate in Him, desire of all creation. God would build His Church (temple) with living stones...
= Men will come to Jesus and see the glory of God...greater than a building.

3. **(7c) Filling: with glory**

- Tabernacle, Solomon’s Temple – both filled with glory (cloud = presence of God). This temple & Future temples (House of the Lord) filled too – testify of God’s presence there to meet with men.

(8) all belongs to Him... what man gloried in (gold, silver), He owned.

* The glory of God is greater than the outward shine of men. I would much rather have a shack with His glory, than a mansion without Him.

- (9a) Though this current temple would not be as glorious in man’s eyes as Solomon’s, the glory it held would be greater...*why?*

**Herod reformed this temple (down to foundation, not considered a 3rd temple)...this is the one that Jesus would enter into.

** Before it was a cloud that told them...God is near. Soon it would be Immanuel “God with us” who would enter their very courts!

Matt 12:6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.

- Jesus would come to them...glory of God revealed!

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

- He took what was seen by one man, one time a year, in a secret place... and opened it to all men, anytime! THIS IS OUR GOD! THIS IS HIS GLORY!

**Are you discouraged with what isn’t happening? God isn’t being glorified in your life? Don’t despise day of small things. Look ahead and see the glory of God – Jesus. Your faith as a praise and glory to Him!*

B. WORD TO CONSIDER: (9B)

-Peace would be given in this “spot” (place). *How?* Points to Jesus!

- Prince of Peace would come and rule...Promised “Shiloh” (Gen. 49:10) would come and reign in this house (temple). He is the High Priest of heaven, Glory of Israel.

- He alone gives peace: today - peace with God (cross), peace with mankind through His Spirit and Word. Future - His reign will be “peace on earth”.

As we rebuild we must remember... 1) our work is His work (don’t be discouraged & measure today’s work with yesterday’s work). 2) our goal is His glory (look to Jesus & the future with Him).