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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**“LATTER HOUSE GLORY”**

**Haggai 2:1-9**

While Haggai’s first message served to correct the disordered priorities of those who returned, the second address dealt with their discouraged perspective. Seeing that their rebuilt temple would be inferior to Solomon’s, the people might have abandoned their reconstruction work. Therefore, the Lord gave Haggai a message of encouragement for them to persist in working.

***Haggai 2:1 "In the seventh [month], in the one and twentieth [day] of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying,"***

***Haggai 2:2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,"***

The prophet’s second message is dated in the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month (October 17, 520 BC), about a month and a half after his receipt of the first message and almost a month after the actual building of the temple had begun. This is a separate message from that in chapter 1. Again, this message is to the governor, high priest, and to the people.

***Matthew 1:12 "And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;"***

This was the last day of the Feast of Booths, also known as Hoshanah Rabbah, the great day of the feast, when the people would have gathered for a grand harvest festival. Harvest time was, generally, a time of great joy.

***Leviticus 23:34 "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month [shall be] the feast of tabernacles [for] seven days unto the LORD."***

However, the combination of the famine and the slow progress on the smaller temple would have made the celebration feel like a Thanksgiving dinner without a turkey. With discouragement rampant, the prophet offered an encouraging word of the LORD.

***Haggai 2:3 "Who [is] left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? [is it] not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?"***

Sixteen years earlier, during the first attempt to rebuild the temple, those who returned looked at the foundation they had laid, and those present, “who had seen the first temple, wept” (Ezra 3:10-13) at its inferiority to Solomon’s magnificent sanctuary. Now, as the rubble was removed and the foundation restored, the people became discouraged once again. Haggai addressed the people’s comparison of the house of God they were constructing with Solomon’s temple. His series of questions acknowledges their disappointment. The first temple’s former glory made this one seem like nothing in comparison. The magnificent temple in Solomon's time was far above anything else in the world at that time. The wealth in silver and gold in the temple was like the wealth of an entire country today. The wood used was the cedar of Lebanon. These people, who had been in captivity, could not amass such great wealth. It would have been unusual for anyone living to have seen it, because it had been destroyed about 70 years before. It is possible, some very old person could have lived during that time. We do know that in the work of the foundation, some of the older people wept at this new foundation. It appears, they were saddened by the fact, they could not build the wonderful temple that Solomon had built.

***Haggai 2:4 "Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I [am] with you, saith the LORD of hosts:"***

This is encouragement from God. Those who returned were discouraged because their perspective was skewed. Therefore, God provided comfort by directing them to the present, the past, and the future. He called them to be strong and to proceed with the work of rebuilding for the Lord, for God would be with them. God’s first encouragement pertained to the situation the people were in at that time. The command take courage was repeated three times for emphasis, using the same terminology as when commanding the conquest of the promised land.

***Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”***

***Joshua 1:6 “Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.”***

***Joshua 1:7 “Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.”***

***Joshua 1:9 “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”***

***Joshua 1:18 “Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.”***

Additionally, He ordered all of them to continue to work at their building project. Similarly, David commissioned his son Solomon to build the temple, exhorting him, “Be courageous and act”.

***1 Chronicles 28:10 “Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.”***

God is not worried about the expensive items of the temple. God is more interested in their hearts desiring to build the temple. God is pleased with their effort. God is with them and will help them. They have shown faith in God by starting the construction. All He asks is their loyalty, and their love. He does not need, or want, wealth. Everything on, and in, the earth belongs to Him already. God's approval gives them strength to go on.

***Haggai 2:5 "[According to] the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not."***

God’s second encouragement reminded the Jewish returnees of the past. Just as God had promised to be with them when they left Egypt, so God’s Spirit was still abiding in [their] midst. God made a promise to Israel when he brought them out of Egypt that he would bring them to a place of blessing. And, indeed, he had. They’d since been removed from that place and returned to it, but in spite of all that had happened, God’s Spirit was still among his people. He’d not forgotten them. They were not to fear, because the same promise of God’s presence that He had made at the exodus remained true at the return from exile.

***"Exodus 29:46 And they shall know that I [am] the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I [am] the LORD their God."***

If they were faithful and kept the commandments of God, God would bless them abundantly. If they did not obey God, then curses would come upon them. The building of this temple showed they wanted God to be their God. He will bless them for their love of Him. He will be their God, and dwell with them. The following Scripture is what God wanted all along.

***Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God."***

***Haggai 2:6 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it [is] a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry [land];"***

***Haggai 2:7 "And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts."***

The third encouragement looked to the future when God would take what seemed to be an inferior temple and fill it with glory. The Jewish people who returned were encouraged to know that God would begin to act in a little while, meaning imminently (at any moment) not immediately (in the next moment). When God glorifies the temple, He will once again shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. The Lord had done this previously when He had parted the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-22) and gave the Sinai covenant (Exodus 19:16-20), and He will shake the world once again in the future. The writer of Hebrews, quoting Haggai 2:6-7, interpreted this as occurring at the end of days, when God will establish His kingdom on earth. God promised that He would shake all the nations, and then “the desire of all nations shall come” to the temple and fill it with glory.

***Hebrews 12:26-28***

***26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.***

***27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.***

***28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:***

God declares, once more, in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. Shaking refers to God’s intentional interruption of the natural order of things. And, in this case, he intended to shake things up to turn things around so that glory would come to his house. In God's timetable of all of eternity, it was but a little time. The temple in Jerusalem will be restored to its greatness at that time. The nations of the world had been worshipping false gods. God will shake them to the point, they will give up the worship of false gods that cannot help them.

***Luke 21:10-11***

***10 "Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:"***

***11 "And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven."***

Read the rest of this chapter in Luke to get the full impact. They will turn to the One, True, Living God who can help them. The glory of God will rest in the temple in Jerusalem. God wins the victory over the entire world system. Jesus will reign as King of kings. The Scripture above has jumped over, until the time when Jesus will destroy the evil of all nations, and He will reign in Jerusalem as King. Just before Jesus sets up His kingdom, there will be a terrible calamity upon the earth.

***Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:"***

In chapter 1, God shook things up so that Israel would put him first. And often once we learn to do that, he’ll shake things up “once more” to remind us that we are in an unshakeable kingdom. When Jesus had two fish and five barley loaves to feed thousands of people, the disciples said it was an unresolvable situation. Jesus took the bread and the fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks, because Jesus was looking at his unshakable kingdom (Matthew 14:13-21). God often puts people in uncomfortable situations just before he does something that has never been done before. There is, in fact, a worldwide shake-up taking place now. The tragedy is that while we see the things going on, we don’t make a spiritual connection we don’t realize that God is at work to take us to another place. Before you go to church, you iron your clothes because you want to look nice. You see something crooked and wrinkly and straighten it out. You apply heat and steam to accomplish the desired result. And similarly, God will apply heat to your situation just long enough to straighten your thinking. He wants to look good in you when you represent him.

***Haggai 2:8 "The silver [is] mine, and the gold [is] mine, saith the LORD of hosts."***

***Haggai 2:9 "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts."***

The people were advancing God’s kingdom program, giving God a central place of worship. Thus, the temple they built would be a precursor to the millennial temple that will stand when the Messiah rules the world from Jerusalem. God has inexhaustible resources, including silver and gold from the nations, that he can use to beautify it. The restored temple of the future will have a greater glory than Solomon’s because of the presence of Jesus. Everything we know belongs to God. "Silver" spiritually means redemption, and "gold" means the purity of God. From the physical and the spiritual standpoint, silver and gold belong to God. This is saying that the latter house will be more glorious than the one Solomon had built. One greater than Solomon will reign, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the King of peace, and He brings perfect peace to all the earth.

***II Thessalonians 3:16 "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord [be] with you all."***

The glory of the Lord filled Solomon's temple, when he dedicated it to God. The glory that will be in this temple, is the continual presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. The glory of this latter house refers to Christ’s physical presence in the Second Temple (greatly modified by Herod). Ezekiel (chapters 10, 11) had earlier witnessed the departure of God’s glory from Solomon’s temple, prior to its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar. Although the builders of the Second Temple prayed for the shekinah glory to return, there is no record that it ever did. This prophecy would be fulfilled only in the return of that glory in the embodiment of Jesus Christ, of whom His disciples said, “And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father” (John 1:14).”

**QUESTIONS**

1. The 21st day of the seventh month would cover what feast?

3. Who was Zerubbabel's father?

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was governor of Judah.

5. What question was asked in verse 3?

6. How much wealth was in the tabernacle Solomon built?

7. Why would it have been unusual for anyone to be living, that had seen the temple Solomon built?

8. Why were the people building the temple so sad?

9. What would make them strong?

10. What is God more interested in, than putting great wealth into the temple?
11. God is pleased with their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

13. What was the condition placed on them to receive God's blessing?

15. What time is verse 6 is speaking of?

17. When had the temple in Jerusalem been filled with God's glory?

18. In the 21 chapter of Luke, what are some signs of the end?
19. Who can help them?
20. Who will reign as King of kings?
21. What does "silver" mean?
22. What temple is verse 9 speaking of?
23. What is the glory that will be in the latter temple?