

Haggai: Consider Your Ways!
The Temple of Glory!
Haggai 2:1-23

1. Introduction

2. Message

2.1 **Ezra 3:8-13**

2.2 **Haggai 2:1-5**

2.2.1 October 17, 520

2.2.1.1 Ezra happened in 536

2.2.1.2 16 years later, month earlier than this prophecy, they started actually building

2.2.1.3 Still can't find joy in it

- Still comparing, still complaining

2.2.2 He encourages Zerubbabel and the other leaders to remain strong in their conviction, despite the grumbling and complaining

2.2.3 He reminds them of the past

2.2.3.1 His promise to the people as they left Egypt

Exodus 29:45-46

⁴⁵ I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

2.2.3.2 He is reminding the people of His faithfulness

- Yes, He had to judge them, and the judgment was long and painful
- But His promise was to be their God and dwell among them

2.3 God then speaks to them of the future **Haggai 2:6-9**

2.3.1 God uses these words to encourage the nation about this temple

2.3.1.1 In a little while (a little over 500 years), God's going to shake things up (v6)

2.3.1.2 In verse 7, notice Desire of Nations

- Bible translators indicating they believe this is speaking of God, specifically here Christ Jesus

2.3.1.3 Verse 8, The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine

- Solomon's temple was beautiful
 - Solomon was incredibly rich
 - The temple was covered in gold
- Israel is probably poor at this time
 - When returned to Israel, Cyrus commanded that people give them silver and gold to return with
 - It's been a while, that silver and gold has probably been used/traded
- Reminds them that all the silver and gold in the world is His
 - He can adorn His own temple
 - The people need to keep their eyes on the task in front of them

2.3.1.4 The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former (v9)

- Humble beginnings
- 1st century BC, Herod the Great renovated the temple
- Jewish tradition holds that it was an unbelievable sight
 - If you haven't seen it, you've never seen anything beautiful
 - Josephus wrote about how incredible it was

- 2.3.1.5 This section ends with God saying in this new temple He will give them peace
 - They will continue with sacrifices as commanded
 - God will dwell amongst them on the mercy seat again
 - They can fulfill their covenant as being God’s chosen people
- 2.3.2 God brings this message to the people as a grace to keep them motivated
- 2.3.3 If you know anything about prophecy, you know that it’s almost never that simple
 - 2.3.3.1 Prophecy is often meant for now and later
 - 2.3.3.2 Yes, these words served an immediate purpose, but God intends for the listener to understand it more fully
- 2.3.4 What made this temple so glorious?
 - 2.3.4.1 Was it the white marble and gold?
 - It looked like snow from afar
 - The colored stone brought from far off places that lined the walls?
 - 2.3.4.2 The Messiah walked in it
 - Jesus came to the temple and taught
 - 2.3.4.3 If we accept this prophecy is about the second temple, it seems too temporary

Luke 21:5-6

⁵Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, ⁶“These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.”

- Herod’s temple was smashed
 - It’s glory was temporary
- 2.3.4.4 Maybe the third temple, yet to be built?
 - The bible tells us another temple will be built
 - Ezekiel 40-48
- 2.3.5 This prophecy speaks of the future, towards eternity
 - 2.3.5.1 Verse 6 shaking isn’t a minor thing
 - 2.3.5.2 God has used earthquakes to display His power before
 - Numbers 16 (Sons of Korah) used for judgment
 - Exodus 19 on Mount Sinai
 - Matthew 27 when Jesus died
 - 2.3.5.3 The language here is intense
 - Not just the earth, but the heavens, and the sea and dry land

Revelation 8:5

⁵Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Revelation 11:19

¹⁹Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 16:18

¹⁸ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

2.3.6 After these things, the millennial reign of Christ on earth begins

2.3.6.1 Christ will rule in the millennial kingdom from the third temple

- All people's will be under His rule, and come to Him for judgment

Isaiah 2:2-3

² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

2.3.6.2 It will be amazing, but it too will pass away

2.3.6.3 Revelation 20 tells us that after 1000 years, Satan will be allowed to deceive the nations once again, proving the rebellion in their hearts

2.3.7 Then comes the true shaking

2.3.7.1 Christ will defeat the rebellion

2.3.7.2 Upon His great white throne, He will judge everyone whose name is not in the Book of Life

Revelation 20:11

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away.

2.3.7.3 Earth and heaven themselves flee from before the Lord

2.3.7.4 In the beginning of chapter 21, John sees a new heaven and a new earth

2.3.8 But what about the temple? The third temple passes away with old things

2.3.8.1 As Christ adorned the second temple with His presence, He explained that it was just a shadow of things to come

John 2:19-21

¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

2.3.8.2 John the apostle noticed a curious thing in the new creation

Revelation 21:22

²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

2.3.8.3 This is the temple the Haggai is prophesying about

2.3.8.4 Haggai also prophesied that all nations shall come to the Desire of Nations

Revelation 21:24-26

²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

- 2.3.9 Let's reread verse 9 **Haggai 2:9**
 - 2.3.9.1 I hope by this point we understand that this latter temple's glory is indeed far exceeding that of any other temple
 - 2.3.9.2 And the peace that He gives is everlasting
- 2.3.10 Remember in verse 5, God promised that He would remain among His people
 - 2.3.10.1 This prophecy is to reveal the full culmination of His intention of dwelling
 - 2.3.10.2 It wasn't meant to remain as separated through a veil
 - 2.3.10.3 He has intended, since the beginning, to dwell among His people - all believer, Jew or Gentile
 - 2.3.10.4 As we talked last week about God's desire to be with us
- 2.3.11 God wants us to keep this perspective
 - 2.3.11.1 For an unbeliever, this prophecy should be terrifying
 - 2.3.11.2 As a believer, we have the God of the universe saying we will dwell in His glory in eternal peace
- 2.4 We don't always keep that perspective, and neither did the nation of Israel, **Zechariah 1:1-6**
 - 2.4.1 God is seeing something in the people that He doesn't like
 - 2.4.2 He first uses Zechariah to remind them of what happened to their nation 70 years ago
- 2.5 Haggai then speaks to the priests of the nation **Haggai 2:10-14**
 - 2.5.1 24th day of the ninth month
 - 2.5.1.1 December 18th, 520 BC
 - 2.5.2 2 months into the building, God has to deal with sin
 - 2.5.3 He does this by quizzing the priests about the law
 - 2.5.3.1 Does coming into contact with a holy thing make you holy? No
 - 2.5.3.2 Does coming into contact with an unholy thing make you unholy? Yes
 - 2.5.3.3 Holy work done in a holy place was to be performed by somebody already holy
 - 2.5.4 We don't know what sin the people were allowing in
 - 2.5.4.1 God uses the physical aspects law to represent inward purity
 - 2.5.4.2 A little leaven leavens the whole lump
 - Verse starts with "Your glorying is not good!"
 - 2.5.5 Whatever was happening, God is nipping it in the bud here
 - 2.5.5.1 In Isaiah 1, you can hear when God's patience had come to an end
 - 2.5.5.2 With the remnant here, on the other side of that particular judgment
 - This is a gentle reminder comparatively
 - Any warning from God should be taken seriously
- 2.6 God continues through Haggai **Haggai 2:15-19**
 - 2.6.1 "Carefully consider"
 - 2.6.1.1 Same thought from chapter 1, "consider your ways"
 - 2.6.2 Like the prophecy in the first section of this chapter, God looks back then forward

- 2.6.3 Verse 15, before stone was laid on stone
 - 2.6.3.1 For the past 16 years, carefully consider what you experienced
 - Hunger and disease
 - Why? Because you did not turn to me
- 2.6.4 Verse 18, from this day forward
 - 2.6.4.1 They are walking in obedience now, things are going to be different
 - 2.6.4.2 Is the seed still in the barn?
 - Two possible meanings from this question
 - If seed means grain, God is asking if they have any food left over
 - The answer is no
 - If seed means growing seed, God is asking if they've already sown their seed
 - It's December, the answer is yes
 - But either way, Haggai prophecies to them here
 - 2.6.4.3 You are out of food because of your disobedience
 - But who can declare the end from the beginning?
 - Even though your seeds are yet unproven
 - Even though the vine and fruit trees do not yet indicate their harvest
 - You will be blessed, there will be abundance
- 2.7 Haggai's final prophecy is a personal one to Zerubbabel **Haggai 2:20-23**
 - 2.7.1 God uses similar language here about shaking and overthrowing
 - 2.7.2 Zerubbabel is of the line of David
 - 2.7.3 Because of Zerubbabel's faithfulness, God is choosing him to be in the line of the Messiah
 - 2.7.4 Though things started off rough, and the people neglected God's temple for so long
 - 2.7.4.1 Zerubbabel responded correctly to the prophet when confronted
 - 2.7.4.2 The timing of this is important
 - 2.7.4.3 In Ezra 4, the nation is told to stop building the temple
 - 2.7.4.4 That decree has not changed
 - The nation lived in fear of man, but they have again trusted the Lord
 - 2.7.4.5 Zerubbabel, the governor in Israel, would be directly responsible for the disobedience to the Persian king
 - Zerubbabel chooses to obey God, fully understanding what the consequence might be
 - 2.7.5 Just as God blessed Zerubbabel for his obedience, He also blesses the nation
 - 2.7.5.1 Ezra 5 tells us that the nations around Israel inform King Darius of Israel's resurging rebellion
 - 2.7.5.2 King Darius responds in Ezra 6 by telling the agitators that he himself will pay for the reconstruction, and that everyone else needs to leave Israel alone
 - Not just leave them alone, but that the taxes they pay will be the source of income for Israel
 - If Israel has need of anything, the nations surrounding are to supply it

3. Conclusion

3.1 God chooses to bless His chosen people in this way

3.1.1 This is not prosperity gospel

3.1.1.1 In no way does this mean that if God is pleased with you than you will prosper materially, and if He is displeased you will be poor

3.1.2 God, in His sovereignty, can bless whomever He chooses - righteous or wicked

3.1.3 The blessing isn't even the point, it's just the facts

3.1.3.1 We get to see God's generous heart and desire to bless

3.1.4 The point of this chapter of Scripture is that God has determined the future, and we are to keep it in our mind

3.1.4.1 There is a day when God will shake this world, so violently that it will be destroyed utterly

Hebrews 12:25-27

²⁵ 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, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." ²⁷ 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.

3.1.4.2 The author of Hebrews quotes this text from Haggai, saying this shaking is destructive

- But there is something that will remain

Hebrews 12:28-29

²⁸ 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. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

3.1.4.3 His kingdom remains

3.1.4.4 God will consume all that falls short, and render a new creation

3.1.5 Romans 3:23 tells me that I have fallen short

3.1.5.1 How am I to reconcile this?

3.1.5.2 God's Word reveals to me two futures

- One terrifying, one of everlasting glory and peace

3.1.5.3 He has also made it abundantly clear to me by His law that I have no right to be in His presence

3.1.5.4 Romans 6:23 tells me that sin results in death, everlasting death

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3.1.6 God knows my state, and in His steadfast love He dealt with it by the gift of His Son

Colossians 1:19-22

¹⁹For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²¹And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²²in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight

3.1.7 Jesus Christ died on the cross to reconcile me to God

3.1.7.1 So that I can stand in His presence

3.1.8 I do not need to fear the future that leads to death

3.1.8.1 Christ has called me into His kingdom, which cannot be shaken

3.1.8.2 I know, with confidence, that my future is eternal life with Him

3.1.8.3 His shed blood on the cross has made the way for a sinner like me to draw close to my Father in heaven

3.1.9 By His sacrifice, and the power of the Holy Spirit within me, I am free to live a life that glorifies God

3.1.9.1 No matter the circumstances of life, I know that God has extended His grace and mercy to me

3.1.9.2 On top of that, He has given me knowledge of the future, through His Word, so that I can be confident now in Him

3.1.9.3 I don't need to be tossed to and fro, my foundation is on the Rock

3.1.9.4 I am free to live a holy life that glorifies Him, choosing righteousness over sin

3.1.10 All of this is true because of His sacrifice

3.1.10.1 The sacrifices performed at the temple that God, through Haggai, commanded to nation to rebuild were always meant to point to His sacrifice

4. Communion

4.1 We are commanded in Scripture to remember the Lord's sacrifice

4.2 **1 Corinthians 11:23b-25**

4.3 Communion, pray, and last song