

GRACE SO AMAZING

GRACE SO AMAZING FOR DISTRACTED BELIEVERS
Hag. 2:1-23

Last week we began looking at the Book of Haggai and observed the decree of Cyrus, king of Persia, in allowing the Israelites the opportunity to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. They had been seventy years in captivity. After returning and laying the foundation of the Temple, the work was interrupted and ceased for 16 years. The Lord intervened and sent Haggai and Zechariah to revive their hearts and renew the work. We observed the following:

I. THE CALL TO BUILD, 1:1-15

A. The Background, 1:1-2

B. The Burden, 1:3-11

C. The Blessing, 1:12-15

The Holy Spirit convicted the hearts of the Jews and their priorities changed from being self-centered to God-centered, from being indifferent to industrious. This morning, we see the call to behold what God was doing in the present and in the future. The calling for the Jews in Jerusalem is the same for believers today. We begin by observing “the call to behold.”

II. THE CALL TO BEHOLD, 2:1-9

A. The Present, 2:1-3

Hag. 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,

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,

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?

❖ The “seventh *month*” = September/October, was a time for three “feasts” that point toward the Second Advent:

- The Feast of Trumpets on “the first day of the month,” Lev. 23:24.
- The Day of Atonement on “the tenth day of the month,” Lev. 23:27.
- The Feast of Tabernacles on “the fifteenth of the month,” Lev. 23:34.

- ❖ The timing of this message was toward the end of the Feast of Tabernacles or the final feast of “ingathering.”
- ❖ The older people could remember the splendor of Solomon’s temple, they exhibited sorrow, and their lack of enthusiasm affected the younger generation.

Ezra 3:11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because *he is good*, for his mercy *endureth* for ever toward Israel. **And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.**

12 But **many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:**

13 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 noise was heard afar off.**

- ❖ This message occurred during the Feast of Tabernacles, the harvest time of rejoicing.

Lev 23:39-43

- ❖ Viewpoints in the present must be tempered by the realization of the effects upon others.
- ❖ The question for the older crowd was, “...and **how do ye see it now?** *is it* not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?”
- ❖ “Consider your ways.” Constantly evaluate your perspective!
- ❖ The returning Jews went from disinterest to discouragement.

B. The Past, 2:4-5

Hag. 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:**

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.

Deut. 31:6, 7, 23; Josh. 1:6, 9, 18; 10:25; 1 Chron. 22:13; 1Chron. 28:20; 2 Tim. 2:1; 1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Sam. 10:12

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**

- ❖ All classes of people are encouraged by the command to be strong...and the command to work!

Ezra 5:1 Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that *were* in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, *even* unto them.

2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem: and with them *were* the prophets of God helping them.

- ❖ For encouragement to work, at the end of the verse is “...**for I *am* with you, saith the LORD of hosts:**”
- ❖ God has not changed – as He was with the Jews coming out of Egypt, His spirit remains with them in this work, too. “...fear ye not.”
- ❖ Remember when, where, and how the Lord strengthened you in the past – now work!

Deut. 32:29 O that they were wise, *that* they understood this, *that* they would **consider their latter end!**

Prov. 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, **that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.**

C. The Prospect, 2:6-9

Hag. 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*;

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.

8 The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

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.

- ❖ God's work always has greater ramifications than viewed in the present.
- ❖ Believers today, like those serving in Haggai's day, must serve by faith, looking to the future:

2 Cor. 4:13 **We having the same spirit of faith,**
according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have
I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;
14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall
raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.
15 For all things *are* for your sakes, that **the abundant
grace might through the thanksgiving of many
redound to the glory of God.**

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, **worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;**

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for **the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.**

❖ The present rebuilding of the Temple also has a God's promise of something in "...**a little while**..." that includes His shaking of "...the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*;" 7 "And I will shake all nations..."

- ❖ The shaking of all nature, and the shaking of all nations exemplified God's intervening power in history. Psa. 46:3; 77:18; Jer. 10:10; Mt. 24:29-30
- ❖ Most importantly, "...**the desire of all nations shall come**: and **I will** fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts."
- ❖ In Jerusalem, the city of peace, "...and **in this place will I give peace**, saith the LORD of hosts."
- ❖ The "desire of all nations" is peace because the "Prince of Peace" will establish it.

Isa. 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace**.

❖ According to the Babylonian Talmud, Zerubbabel's temple lacked the splendor of Solomon's Temple, by lacking five things:

1. The Ark of the Covenant;
2. The holy fire;
3. The Shekinah glory;
4. The Holy Spirit;
5. The Urim and Thummim.

<https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14309-temple-the-second#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Babylonian%20Talmud%20%28Yoma%2022b%29%2C%20the,the%20Holy%20Spirit%2C%20and%20the%20Urim%20and%20Thummim>

- ❖ But, in the future, “**The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former...**”
- ❖ The work on Zerubbabel’s Temple has prophetic ramifications. Understanding is not needed – obedience is!
- ❖ Just know this: “The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts...”

Ezek. 43:4 And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect *is* toward the east.

5 So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, **behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.**

Ezek. 44:4 Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and, **behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD:** and I fell upon my face.

Summary

There are three qualifications for peace:

1. Giving glory to God – Luke 2:14 “**Glory to God in the highest**, and **on earth peace**, good will toward men.”

2. Righteousness – Heb 7:1-2

Heb. 7:1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation **King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace**;

3. Purity – Jas. 3:17

Jas. 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is **first pure, then peaceable**, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Conclusion

Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and **he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**

12 His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name is called The Word of God.**

14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**