



GRACE SO AMAZING FOR DISTRACTED BELIEVERS

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Hag. 2:1-23

Two weeks ago, 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

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

A. The Present, 2:1-3

B. The Past, 2:4-5

C. The Prospect, 2:6-9

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 behave, doing what God wanted to be done in the present and in the future. The calling for the Jews in Jerusalem is the same for believers today. Our application of these Scriptural principles in the present has eternal ramifications when each of us stands before the Lord at the Judgment Seat. Today we continue in the book of Haggai by observing “the call to behave.”

III. THE CALL TO BEHAVE, 2:10-19

A. The Blessing that was Wanted, 2:10-14

Hag. 2:10 In the four and twentieth *day* of the ninth *month*, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

11 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests *concerning* the law, saying,

12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, **shall it be holy?** And **the priests answered and said, No.**

13 Then said Haggai, If *one that is* unclean by a dead body touch any of these, **shall it be unclean?** And **the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.**

14 Then answered Haggai, and said, **So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean.**

- ❖ Over three months have passed since Haggai's arrival and now he preaches a challenge to the people to understand the principle of cleanness, according to the Mosaic Law.
- ❖ Holiness is not catching, but uncleanness is.
- ❖ When principles are not followed in obedience and submission to the Lord, ramifications of withheld blessings will follow.
- ❖ Offerings were not accepted if the hearts were not clean (v. 14.)

1 Sam. 15:22b “...Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice,** *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

B. The Blessing that was Withheld, 2:15-17

Hag. 2:15 And now, I pray you, **consider from this day and upward**, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD:

16 Since those *days* were, when *one* came to an heap of *twenty measures*, there were *but* ten: when *one* came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty *vessels* out of the press, there were *but* twenty.

17 **I smote you** with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; **yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.**

- ❖ The message to “consider” was once again emphasized.
- ❖ Evaluate the situation and realize that God withheld His blessings. (See Isa. 1:11-15.)
- ❖ God states that He was responsible for withholding blessings and that His concern was to motivate the Jews to turn to Him, but they neglected the message. (v. 17)

Pro 13:15b “...but **the way of transgressors is hard.**”

C. The Blessing that was Waiting, 2:18-19

Hag. 2:18 **Consider now from this day and upward**, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth *month*, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, **consider it**.

19 **Is the seed yet in the barn?** yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: **from this day will I bless you**.

- ❖ Once again, the message to “consider” was repeated and emphasis was on the immediate action – “Consider now from this day and upward...consider it.”

Prov. 23:7 “For **as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...**”

- ❖ The ingredients needed for fruitfulness are given, along with the main need – “...from this day will I bless *you*.”
- ❖ When believers implement the principles of God’s Word, His blessings will accompany.

IV. THE CALL TO BELIEVE, 2:20-23

A. God Will Manifest His Power, 2:20-22

Hag. 2:20 And again the word of the LORD came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth *day* of the month, saying,

21 Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, **I will** shake the heavens and the earth;

22 And **I will** overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and **I will** destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and **I will** overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

- ❖ The Lord sent the following message: “Stay faithful in the present because I have better plans for the future for Israel.”
- ❖ Though the message was directed to Zerubbabel in verse 22, the prophetic address is directed to the Antichrist and his kingdoms.

B. God Will Magnify His Prince, 2:23

Hag. 2:23 **In that day**, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee **as a signet**: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.

- ❖ “In that day” = the Second Advent when the Lord Jesus Christ, the signet of God, comes back as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Summary

- ❖ After seventy years in captivity, the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple as decreed by Cyrus, king of Persia..
- ❖ The Jews encountered opposition and after laying the foundation of the Temple, the work ceased for sixteen years.
- ❖ The Lord raised up two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to stir the hearts of the Jews to “Consider your ways” and get their priorities corrected.

- ❖ After 23 days, the Holy Spirit had moved the Jews to repentance and rebuilding the House of God.
- ❖ Prophets were not popular, but plain preaching servants with a mission from God.
- ❖ The messages were “get right with God,” “put God FIRST in your life,” etc.
- ❖ Wise believers understand “their latter end.”

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.***

- ❖ When the people repented, they returned to putting God's program first – build the House of God.
- ❖ The message in chapter two began with an honest comparison between Solomon's Temple and Zerubbabel's Temple.

- ❖ The Lord wanted them to see beyond what was before them. Obedience is the key. The future will show the glory of God via service in His House.
- ❖ Holiness is not catching, but uncleanness is.

Conclusion

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

13 **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.