

Haggai 2:6-9, 23

Signet of a Superior Temple

Text: Haggai 2

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the “sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Haggai showed the glory of the Messiah’s spiritual temple...

I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. In the year 536 BC, almost 50,000 Jews returned to their homeland from Babylon.
- B. After their first winter back in Judah, they began work to rebuild the Temple.
- C. However, their enemies conspired against them and convinced the new King of Persia to order work on the Temple stopped.
- D. The Jews went along with this order and ceased work on the Temple until the second year of King Darius (around 520 BC).
- E. So, for a period of at least 10 years (maybe as many as 15), no work was done on the Temple.
- F. God was not pleased, so he sent the prophet Haggai to preach to His people.

II. THE MESSAGE OF HAGGAI

(HAGGAI 1 - 2)

- A. The name Haggai means, “Festival.”
 1. Several of his prophecies were received and delivered on festival days.
 2. The idea of a festival indicates the celebration that should be taking place due to the return from captivity.
- B. The First Message: *Consider Your Ways* (Haggai 1)
 1. This message was for the people, but it was directed to their leaders - Zerubbabel and Jeshua.
 2. The people claimed that it was not time to build the Temple.
 3. God asked: “Is it time for you to build your houses while the Temple is neglected?”
 - a. The word for ‘cieled’ means, “Covered or paneled.”
 - b. They had not built simple dwellings; rather, they were making their houses luxurious.
 4. God challenged the leaders and the people to consider their ways (“set your heart upon”).
 5. If they would put God first in their actions, God would be pleased and provide for them.
 6. Upon hearing this message, the leaders obeyed, and the people feared God.

Prophecy of Jesus

- C. The Second Message: *Be Strong and Work* (Haggai 2:1-9)
1. God encouraged both the leaders and the people to be strong and to remain committed to the work.
 2. God promised to be with them if they would continue to faithfully serve and obey.
 3. To strengthen their resolve, God promised them that a Temple would be built that would far outshine even Solomon's Temple.
 4. This would happen when God shook the nations with the establishing of His spiritual Temple – the church (cf. Heb. 12:25-29; Eph. 2:15-17; Phil. 4:7).
- D. The Third Message: *Consider Now from This Day* (Haggai 2:10-19)
1. Because the people were unclean, everything that they did was also unclean (cf. Lev. 6:27; Num. 19:22).
 2. Only when they turned their hearts to the Lord would they be blessed.
 3. Thus, God told them to mark this day – for from this day forward His blessings would be bestowed upon them.
- E. The Fourth Message: *I Have Chosen Thee* (Haggai 2:20-23)
1. This message was directed to Zerubbabel.
 2. Again, God promised to shake the world and its kingdoms.
 3. Yet, God's purpose would stand, and His kingdom would be established.
 4. Zerubbabel was key to this promise, for he was a descendant of David – thus, in the seedline of the Messiah (cf. Matt. 1:12-16; Luke 3:27).
 5. Thus, Zerubbabel was the signet of Jehovah – the sign of God's faithfulness.
 6. It is for this reason that God had chosen him.

- III. THE PROPHECY (HAGGAI 2:6-9, 23)
- A. The fact that this passage is a prophecy of the church is proven by its quotation in Hebrews 12:26-28.
- B. The idea of shaking the nations refers to their judgment by God (cf. Isaiah 2:19-21; 13:13; Ezekiel 38:20; Joel 3:16).
- C. The coming of Jesus into the world was a judgment upon the nations of the world (Matthew 3:10-13).
- D. As a result, the desire (“treasures” – ESV; “precious things” – ASV) of all nations would come to God and His temple would be filled with glory.
1. This seems to refer to those of all nations who would hear and obey the Gospel.
 2. They would be added by the Lord to His kingdom – the glorious church (Acts 2:42, 47; Ephesians 5:27).
- E. The glory of this spiritual temple would be greater than the material glory of Solomon's temple.
- F. In this temple, true peace would exist – between God and man and among men (Ephesians 2:14-17; Colossians 1:19-21).
- G. In that day, Zerubbabel would be made a signet – a ring used to form a seal of authority.
1. King Coniah had been cast out as God's signet (Jeremiah 22:30).
 2. Yet, God's promise to David still stood true (2 Samuel 7:11-14).
 3. It is through Zerubbabel that the bloodline was reestablished (cf. Matthew 1:12-16; Luke 3:27).
- H. Though the nations of the world would be shaken, God's promise would stand.
- I. God had chosen Zerubbabel to be the one through whom His Chosen Messiah would come.