

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for February 21, 2016

Take Courage
Haggai 2:1-9

I. The Lord's presence (2:1-5)

A. The discouragement of the people (2:1-3)

-The 21st day of 7th month was the 7th day of Feast of Tabernacles (Lev 23:39-44)

-After almost one month of building, the temple failed to match the glory of Solomon's temple

-Haggai 2:3

"Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?"

-Ezra 3:12-13

"Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard far away."

B. The declaration of the Lord (2:4-5)

-The phrase "take courage" is mentioned 3 times (Once to Zerubbabel, once to Joshua, and once to all the remnant of Judah)

-This phrase is similar to Joshua 1:6-9

"Be strong and courageous"

-Both the Israelites of the Conquest and Post-Exile were facing discouraging times

-For the Israelites of the Conquest, Moses' death was discouraging

-For the Israelites of the Post-Exile, the incomparability of the new temple to Solomon's temple was discouraging

-Haggai 2:4 "... and work; **for I am with you,**' declares the LORD of hosts."

-This is a repeated promise from Haggai 1:13 when the people were encouraged to begin the work on the temple

- For the people, there would be nothing more encouraging than God's presence
- Haggai 2:5 in the NASB reads as follows, "As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!"
 - The idea of Haggai 2:5 is better captured by the NIV "This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear."
 - God promised His people that He would be with them when He brought them out of Egypt (Exodus 29:45-46; 33:16)
- In not so glorious times, God reminds His people of glory days
 - God promised to be with His people in the same way that He was there in the past as a cloud by day and a fire by night (Exodus 14)
 - God promised to be with His people in the same way that His voice thundered at Sinai for all to hear (Exodus 19)
 - God promised to be with His people in the same way that His glorious presence filled the Tent of Meeting (Exodus 40:34-38)

II. The Lord's promises (2:6-9)

A. God will shake all nature (2:6)

- There are two extremes mentioned (Double merism - heavens and earth; sea and dry land)
- God will shake all things and thus display His omnipotence
- The phrase "Once more..." recalls God's shaking power in the past
 - God split the Red Sea and stopped the Jordan River
 - God shook the mountain of Sinai when He met with Moses
 - God brought fire and smoke on Sinai (Exodus 19:18)
 - God delivered hailstones from the sky during the Conquest of Southern Canaan
 - God caused the sun to stand still during the Conquest of Southern Canaan
- The phrase "in a little while..." demands an imminence to God's actions
 - This shaking is what God will do in the future according to the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments (Revelation 6; 8-9; 16)
 - Oceans will be turned to blood (Revelation 16:3)
 - Rivers will be made bitter (Revelation 16:4)
 - 1/3 of all trees and vegetation will be burned (Revelation 8:7)

- Sun will scorch people (Revelation 16:8-9)
- Sun will cease to shine (Revelation 16:10-11)
- Comets will crash to the earth (Revelation 6:12-13)
- There will be 100lb hailstones (Revelation 16:21)
- An unprecedented earthquake will occur (Revelation 16:18)

B. God will shake the nations (2:7a)

- God will shake future nations much like He shook Egypt in the Exodus
 - The Egyptians suffered much loss in the plagues
 - Future nations will suffer great agony and curse God (Revelation 16:21)
- Nations will come with wealth just like Israel took wealth from Egypt in Exodus (Exodus 12:35-36)
 - The New King James Version makes Haggai 2:7 sound like it is a Messianic prophecy, “and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts.”
 - The NIV could be understood in the same manner as the NKJV “and the desired of all nations will come”
 - Given the immediate context, it would be best to understand the word, “desired” as the wealth of the nations

C. God will stock the temple (2:7b-8)

- “they will come with the wealth of nations and I will fill this house with glory” v. 7
 - Zechariah 14:14
 - “Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance.”
 - Isaiah 60:5
 - “Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you.”
 - Isaiah 60:13
 - “The glory of Lebanon will come to you, The juniper, the box tree and the cypress together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I shall make the place of My feet glorious.”
- “The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine” v. 8

-Psalm 50:9-12

"I shall take no young bull out of your house Nor male goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains."

D. The temple will shine with glory (2:9)

-“The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,” says the LORD of hosts (2:9a)

-The Millennial temple in Ezekiel 40-48 will be even greater than Solomon’s temple

-“and in this place I will give peace,” declares the LORD of hosts (2:9b)

-God Himself will give peace from the temple

-Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

-Zechariah 9:10

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.