

**June 19, 2011 – Father’s Day**  
**“A Call To Rebuild the Temple”**  
**Haggai 2:1-9**

Then on October 17 of that same year, the LORD sent another message through the prophet Haggai. <sup>2</sup> "Say this to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of God's people there in the land: <sup>3</sup> 'Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all! <sup>4</sup> But now the LORD says: Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. <sup>5</sup> My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.' <sup>6</sup> "For this is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the oceans and the dry land. <sup>7</sup> I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. <sup>8</sup> The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. <sup>9</sup> The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. And in this place I will bring peace. I, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!"

At one time there was a beautiful thriving synagogue in Malvern, NY. But over the years the congregation started to dwindle and so did the finances. Only a few older Jewish men and women remained. They tried to hold on to their building. They did not want to give up their synagogue. It made them sad as they would reminisce of the former splendor of their beloved temple. The building was neglected and was in disrepair.

Well, the former Valley Stream Church of the Nazarene, had been looking for a building for a few years, and they purchased this old synagogue. They fixed up an area so that the few Jewish believers could continue to meet in their old building. And work has begun to renovate the building. It is once again becoming a place where God is worshipped.

In chapter 1 of Haggai the Lord rebukes the governor, the son of the high priest, and all the people. He was calling them to rebuild the Temple:

Haggai 1:4

"Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?"

When they heard the message through the prophet Haggai, they obeyed God's call and began to rebuild the Temple.

Haggai 1:12-14

Then ... the whole remnant of God's people began to obey the message from the LORD their God. When they heard the words of the prophet Haggai, whom the LORD their God had sent, the people feared the LORD. Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave the people this message from the LORD: "I am with you, says the LORD!"

So the LORD sparked the enthusiasm of ... the whole remnant of God's people. They began rebuilding the house of their God.

In chapter 2 the builders had been at work just short of one month, and the Lord encourages the same ones He rebukes in chapter 1; for those who are convicted by the Word, and respond with obedience shall be comforted, and encouraged; and those who begin to do what God calls them to do will be encouraged to proceed.

As they begin the work, and have only the foundation in place, they become discouraged as they realize that the Temple they are beginning to building will never compare to the original, Solomon's Temple, they just don't have the same resources. God knows that and says to them through Haggai what they were thinking anyway (v3) 'Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all!

It has now been about 70 years since Solomon's Temple had been destroyed, and so there might be some still alive who had seen it. They would remember seeing the gold and precious stones that were used. This too would have discouraged the builders. While God is pleased as we sincerely do the best we can in our service to Him, our proud hearts will not let us be pleased with ourselves unless we do better than others.

And the older generation has to be careful not to discouraged the younger by telling them how much better the good old days were. Just thank God that good is being done in these days, as bad as you think these days are. As it says in Ecclesiastes 7:10 Don't long for "the good old days." This is not wise.

Though the Temple they build might be inferior to the previous one, God encourages them (v4):

**But now the LORD says: Be strong... Be strong ... Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.**

God wants us to do as good as we can, even if we don't have the resources to do as good as we could. He doesn't want us to be disheartened, but to do as well as we can with what we have. God encourages us to be strong, and do the work He has called us to do with the little resources we have.

How does He encourage? What is the grounds of His encouragements?

**(v5) My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.'**

They had armies against them, but with them was "The Lord of Heaven's Armies." We can stay strong, knowing that He is with us, and as long as His Spirit remains with us, we have hope that all will turn out well. So do not be afraid.

What is God calling you to do? As a father, as a mother, as a believer? You must do the *best* you can with what you have. Don't be afraid; be strong, for God is with you...just as He promised. We can be encouraged as long as the Spirit remains among us to work in us, with us, and for us.

Now let's talk about the Temple. In verses 6-7 we read:

**"For this is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the oceans and the dry land. I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.**

God shook up the nation when He brought His people out of Egypt; He shook the heavens and earth at Mount Sinai with thunder, and lightning, and earthquakes, when he gave His 10 Commandments; AND there were earthquakes and other signs when Christ came and died to establish His Kingdom; and One day He will again shake the heavens and the earth.

Hebrews 12:26-28

**When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I**

will shake not only the earth but the heavens also." This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain.

Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe.

In v8-9 of our text it says:

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. And in this place I will bring peace. I, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!"

How can God say this, when He just pointed out that they didn't have the resources to build a Temple that could compare with the splendor of the former Temple? The answer I believe is because they would soon have the Messiah, Christ, among them. Silver and gold do not make the temple glorious. God doesn't need silver or gold, He owns all things, and so all the silver and gold of the world is His anyway (when we give to the Lord, we are only giving Him what is already His). If the rebuilt temple couldn't compare to Solomon's temple, how can "the future glory of this Temple...be greater than its past glory"? He tells us in v7, because, "I will fill this place with glory." This Temple that they were building would be the Temple that the Messiah would come to, and minister in and teach in. Even after His death, the Word of the Lord Jesus would continue to be preached in this Temple by His disciples. It would be a place where He would "bring peace," for, if God is with us, peace is with us.

But where is God's Temple today? Since the birth, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus the Spirit of God has come to live in us. Today you are to be the Temple of God, so, how is that building project going? We give our time and energy to many areas in our life, how about our spiritual life? We make time for job, finances, leisure, health, education, even religion while "His house lies in ruin (spiritually)." Where the Spirit of the Lord is - there is peace. Do you have His peace? Do you have the abiding presence of the Lord in your heart? What do you need to do so that your heart is a place for the glory of the Lord? My prayer for you today is that the Lord will spark enthusiasm in you to obey and begin rebuilding the house of God in your heart. Don't get discouraged, keep at it, and be the best you can be.

But now the LORD says: Be strong... all you people... And now get to work, for I am with you, says the LORD of

Heaven's Armies. My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised... So do not be afraid.