

TEACHING 2 OF FEB 2020

Haggai 2:7 – I will fill this house with splendour!

In the introduction of this book of Haggai, the following is said:

- Haggai ENCOURAGED – the returned exiles to rebuild the temple;
- The people were HINDERED – in their effort to rebuild the temple, people became pre-occupied with building their own homes;
- Haggai assured people that if they would give priority to God's work, they would prosper;
- The project underway, prospect for a beautiful building was rather dim – people have memories of previously destroyed magnificent building – Haggai assures them that the glory of this temple will be greater than the previous one – even if the building is less impressive.

If you, at any stage of your life, moved away from God (whether due to self-exile or not) because something happened and the cause or reason was not understood and since you have come back to serve God (because you decided that being with Him amidst the trouble is better than being without Him in the storms) then this message is for you.

And, if you are still watching to see what happens from the outskirts of the place of self-imposed exile, this message is also for you.

In the book of Haggai, the people exiled by Cyrus, King of Persia, have returned, but in 18 years since their return, they primarily focused on restoring their own temples, because when they tried to rebuild the temple (during the time of Ezra and Zephaniah) they were hindered. They turned their focus on their own lives and started building awesome places for themselves. Don't we do the same?

This is a message of encouragement to assure us that when we seek and find and delight ourselves in God's Kingdom FIRST, He will give us our heart's desires (Psalm 37:4). WORSHIP is God's ultimate desire and the reason for our creation.



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Significant of the underlined words above, is the following:

- ENCOURAGED – we are given words of strengthening to help us see the need and necessity to do what God wants.
- RETURNED - came back to the original place that was left behind when we were sent/or freely went to another place.
- EXILES - People totally barred from the original place to another place far away.
- REBUILD - Restore what was broken down or is now in ruins.
- THE TEMPLE - Original place of worship.
- HINDERED - Obstacles placed in our way, resistance from family, gossip, lack of resources, that stops us from doing what we intended.
- PRE-OCCUPIED - We become focused on a target beyond anything else.
- OWN HOMES - Our own place – does not belong to God. Physical or spiritual place of where or on what we spend our time.
- PRIORITY - The first important and urgent main topic we give attention to.
- GOD'S WORK - What God wants us to do - His desires for us.
- PROSPER - To have more than enough; to build up a strong reserve in order to last longer than we need it to or a place of all-round abundance.



- MEMORIES - Pictures of the past that we recall when we want to.
- THIS TEMPLE - The new Place of worship.
- GLORY - Manifestation of God's presence – His visible, audible and touchable presence.
- LESS IMPRESSIVE - Will not impress other people as much as the previous.

God is saying to you this day:

- Let go of your striving to rebuild your own life and kingdom (that place where you worship yourself) and rebuild your place of worship for Him;
- Even if what you had before seems grand and glorious and what you are building now seems less grand; and others may think it not impressive, continue to FOCUS on rebuilding a place of worship for God IN your own being;
- The “work” He sees; the “effort” He appreciates; the “results” He responds to by filling this new place with His presence and glory.
- Then – the fact that it does not have the features of grandeur like the one before will not matter to Him because His presence makes for glorious fellowship and moves His hand to prosper you. God places a different value on glory than we do. So, even if other people may think it is not grand, God says: “THIS IS PERFECT. I WILL BLESS YOU!”

Let's be encouraged and take up the challenge to rebuild this place of worship in our lives so that we can prosper as God intends.

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