

Greater Glory

Haggai 2:6-9

May 26, 2024

⁶ For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. ⁹ The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.

My message title this morning is “Greater Glory”.

Do you think God over promises and under delivers?

There are people who say that but the answer is NO.

On the contrary, it is man who boasts of great things and fails to keep them.

Sadly, there are people today who have unbiblical expectations from God. People who expect a perfect health or outstanding wealth and even those who say that God owes them something are in error.

“Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.” Job 41:11

All you offered to God was your sin. And you received grace and mercy in return.

Peter made some great claims before Jesus Christ. Lord, I am ready to die with you. But soon, he denied Jesus three times. And yet Jesus gives Peter grace. We are all children of grace. We are debtors to grace.

If Jesus Christ has saved you, as a born-again Christian, the best thing has already happened in your life. There may be days of groaning, sighing or being frustrated but if Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, your future with God is secure.

Listen to the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter chapter one.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you” 1 Peter 1:3-4.

God caused you to be born again. Jesus is your living hope. You can die today and be with God. Because the imperishable, undefiled and unfading joy of heaven is reserved for you. That is how secure your salvation is. You know why? Because you didn't secure it. God secured it. Tell me if you can beat this promise.

Ancient Israel had seen the promise of God fulfilled. However, it wasn't easy for Israel to follow God. It wasn't meant to be easy. Following God requires humility and faith. When Moses brought them to the Red Sea, the people began to panic, fear and be discouraged. Pharaoh was pursuing them from behind and the Red Sea was there in front. What did they say? Exodus 14:10-16

“When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, ‘Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

This is what fear and discouragement does. They rather go back to slavery than freedom that comes through faith. But what does God want his people to do?

¹³ And Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. The LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground’”.

Do you see what the Lord tells Moses? Go forward. Not backwards. Don't live in the past. Learn from the past but don't get stuck in it.

Paul tells the Philippians in chapter three - *But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

So God tells the people during Moses' time to go forward. Fast forward a few hundred years. To the time of Haggai. The exiles have returned to their home land. And the work began.

The foundation of the temple was laid. But they were discouraged. They were given to fear. To ease. To neglect. The enemies of God were all around. God reminds them what the priority was. And the people respond with obedience. And God stirs them up to continue building the house of God.

God tells the exiles in chapter two verses one through five – Be strong. Work. Fear not. Much was at stake for the people of Israel then and much is at stake for the church of Jesus Christ now. We must be *strong*. We must *work* for building his kingdom. Working for the kingdom does not mean you have to have an official role or title in the church. Worshipping together is an act of service. Get plugged in to church life. We have a notice board over there with all the needs here. You are needed here. Pray about it but don't be waiting for a sign from the sky to serve.

It is in light of this context, in our passage for consideration for this morning, God promises a great future.

A greater glory that will surpass the glory of the former temple. All this points to Christ and his kingdom.

This passage reveals at least three promises, three reminders about God's purpose.

First promise: The unshakeable kingdom of Christ.

Let's look at verse six.

⁶ For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.

You see the phrase "yet once more"? This means God had shaken things up once and God is going to shake things up one more time in the future. This is a future prophecy about things to come and partially fulfilled during the exilic period.

The first time God shook up things was when God came down Mount Sinai. *"Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly."* Exodus 19:18

The author of Hebrews expounds on verse 6 in Hebrews chapter twelve.

"See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once

more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain” Hebrews 12:25-27

One day all things will end. The heavens and the earth will be shaken. When Jesus died the sky became dark, the earth shook and the rocks were split (Matthew 27:51). And when Jesus rose again from the dead, there was a great earthquake (Matthew 28:2). And Revelation 6:13 gives us a glimpse of what is to happen “*and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale*”. What will remain is what cannot be shaken. The kingdom of Christ cannot be shaken.

And God will renew what is fallen and make new heavens and the new earth. Until that time we must make disciples.

Second promise: Good news to the nations.

Verses seven and eight.

⁷ *And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts.* ⁸ *The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.*

Another translation reads this way:

7 And I cause to shake all the nations and the *desired* of all the nations will come and I will *overwhelm* this house with glory says the Lord of hosts. The ESV uses a plural term for the word *treasure* but the Hebrew is singular with a plural verb.

This is a difficult verse to translate.

The most likely meaning of this verse is that God has a plan not just for Israel but all the nations. All the nations will turn to God. The nations may boast of their wealth but God will shake it all up so that all will know that all is God's.

8 The silver is mine and the gold is mine declares the Lord of hosts.

“The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein”

Psalms 24:1

“For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.” Psalm 50: 10-12

In the second part of verse seven, the Lord says he will *fill* the house with glory. The word *fill* is an intensive verb in the Hebrew language. It means not just fill but *inundate* or

overwhelm his house with glory. God's desire is for his glory. Do you want to part of that which is glorious forever?

The devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. What did Jesus tell Satan? Be gone! The glory of this world will vanish. Paul tells the Corinthians in his first letter chapter seven verse thirty-one to live as though you have no dealings with this world because the present form of this world is passing away. Live in this passing world to show the world that the church is the embassy to heaven. So, second promise – God promises good news to the nations. And the church is that light house of good news.

Third promise. Greater glory is coming.

⁹The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.

God's glory was so great when Solomon built the temple for God. The gold and the silver used for the temple was beyond extravagant. 1 Chronicles chapter twenty-nine tells us that Solomon's father David gave him 225,000 pounds of gold and 525,000 pounds of silver. And the people gave freewill offerings too. And the gold and the silver they gave was even more than what David gave. But more than the gold and silver the glory of God made the temple great. On the day of dedication of the temple, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering. The priests could not enter the temple because the glory was filled the house. The presence of God was manifested so strongly that the priests could not enter the temple.

But here God tells the exiles through the prophet Haggai that the latter glory would be greater than the former glory.

What does the latter glory look like?

Well, the second temple surely did not exceed the first temple in its use of gold or silver. But the glory of God exceeded the first glory when he sent His Son.

When the birth of Jesus was announced by the angels to the shepherds, they said, "Glory to God in the highest.." Luke 2:14. The glory of God shines brightest in the face of Jesus Christ.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14.

“For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. 2 Corinthians 3:9

Lastly, God promises peace.

And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.

God promises shalom one day. Rest. Peace. True harmony this world craves for but cannot find. Only God can give this peace.

The angels gave glory to God when Jesus was born. They also announced peace.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased. Luke 2:14

Jesus said *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you”* John 14:27

In conclusion, God promises a kingdom that will never be shaken. God promises good news to all the nations, God promises a glory that will surpass anything and everything you have ever seen. One day God will bring peace to this earth.

----- Discipleship Questions-----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: Greater Glory. Haggai 2:6-9

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. How is the glory of God greater than the first temple in knowing Jesus Christ? 1 Corinthians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 3:7-11, 4:6, 17, John 1:14, Romans 8:18

HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

1. If Christ's kingdom is eternal and Christ will return, do you believe this impacts how you live now? Go around and share. Romans 13:11-12, Hebrews 13:14, 1 Peter 4:7, 1 John 2:17, Philippians 2:12
2. What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

1. For personal reflection: What needs to change in your life to live as a pilgrim and light in this passing world?