

Consider Your Ways!

3-The Great Shaking Rebuilding the Temple and the Glory of Jesus- Part 2

February 27, 2022

Haggai 2:1-9

2 On the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet saying,

2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying,

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?

4 'But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the Lord, 'and work; for I am with you,' declares the Lord of hosts.

5 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'

6 "For thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.

7 'I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, 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 will be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the Lord of hosts."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit; Amen.*

Now as I told you last time- it is great for us to say that the 66 Books of the Bible are the, *Inspired; Inerrant; Infallible Word of the living God.*"- because there are far too many in the modern church, who, sadly, won't even say that. What many teach today is that the Bible is NOT, "*the Word of God*"- but, "*a Word about God*"- which seems to get them "off the hook". Because if the Bible is THE Word of God- then the next Question would be, "*Then why don't you obey it?*" So, in order to get out from under the Responsibility of having to actually adhere to

what the Bible says- they sidestep the Issue of Obedience completely by saying the Bible isn't really true; and it certainly isn't Inspired; Inerrant; or Infallible.

So, they say the Bible is sort of like "*Aesop's Fables*"- in that it provides Stories (that aren't actually true) that have a "*religious or moral Lesson*" in mind. So, for example, Jesus wasn't really born of a Virgin. That "Myth" is in the Bible to simply allow us to understand the Benefit of Virtue and the Importance of Motherhood. And Jesus didn't actually live a sinless Life- that Story is there because it teaches us that trying to be "Good" in our lives is a worthwhile and noble Goal. And Jesus certainly didn't physically or literally rise from the dead- that Story is there to simply teach us about "Second Chances" or "New Beginnings".

Now what I have described to you is NOT merely found in the Cults and other wayward Groups- but is dominant today in many mainstream Protestant Denominations¹. So, there is a place where the Defense of the veracity of the Bible itself is warranted and useful.

But as I told you last time, us merely saying that the Bible is true and is the Word of God is not enough. Because the Bible has to be interpreted. And *how* we interpret the Bible means EVERYTHING! So, we must go beyond simply believing that the Bible is true- we, who say we are saved- must also take a stand for what the Bible actually says.

And last time, I went over the various Issues about biblical Interpretation with you; and told you that the "Science of" or the "Principle of" biblical Interpretation is called, "*Hermeneutics*". And then I brought out several "*Hermeneutic Principles*" such as:

- The *vague* Passages are interpreted by the more- clear Passages about the same Subject
- The *hard* Passages are interpreted by the easy ones- about the same Subject

... and this "*Hermeneutic Principle*" ties in with the Concept of "*Sola Scriptura*" so that we:

Allow Scripture to interpret Scripture

... so, the very BEST Interpreter of the Bible is- the Bible itself.

And so, the Goal of Interpretation is to allow the Bible to "*speak for itself*." And that is why we strive so hard to NOT apply our *own* thoughts; or our *own* wisdom; or our *own* ideas; or our *own* logic to the Word of God- and we simply allow the Bible to interpret itself.

But then there is a "*Principle of Hermeneutics*" that has to do with

¹ ... such as the largest Presbyterian group- the PCUSA

Old Testament Prophecy- like we see today in this Passage in **Haggai**- and that is:

Old Testament Passages that are re-stated or quoted in the New Testament are interpreted by New Testament

And there is a fundamental Reason behind *why* we do that. The 39 Books of the Old Testament put forth the Divine Revelation concerning the First or the Old Covenant. And the notable exception to that are the various Prophecies that the Old Testament writers penned down. Those Prophecies predict the future; and the end of the First or the Old Covenant and the bringing in of the New Covenant through the Life, Ministry, Death, Resurrection, and second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now there is another Issue that should be obvious-but which needs to be repeated often and that is:

The 27 Books of the New Testament- represent ALL that the New Covenant is about.

And that means that there is NOTHING else- no Book; no writing; no Revelation that exists that has *additional* Information about what the New Covenant is about.

Now why is that important? Because the New Covenant is NOT merely a *different* Covenant. It is an infinitely *superior* Covenant; that is based on infinitely *superior* Promises; that was brought about through an infinitely *superior* High Priest; who offered an infinitely *superior* Sacrifice.

And likewise, the 27 Books of the New Testament are NOT merely *additional* Information from the 39 Books of the Old. No, the New Testament Revelation is the *final, full, and completed* Revelation of God to Mankind. In other words, the Divine Revelation of God to Man is now *finished and complete*. In other words, there isn't EVER going to be any *additional* Revelation given to Man from God. Therefore, the New Testament *completes and finishes and perfects* what the Old Testament began.

And we saw that last time from **Hebrews 6-** where the writer of **Hebrews** taught that saved Jews should “**leave**” or “**abandon**” the “**elementary Teachings about the Christ**” (the Old Testament) and “**press on**” to the *mature and perfected and superior* Teachings of the New Testament.

And so, when an Old Testament Prophecy is repeated in the New Testament- the interpretation of that Prophecy is found in the New Testament and NOT in the Old. For example, let me show you how important it is to allow the New Testament to interpret the Old Testament. When the Christian Church was

born in the first Prayer Meeting in the Upper Room- the Bible says this in **The Acts 2:1-8:**

- 1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.**
- 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.**
- 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.**
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.**
- 5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.**
- 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.**
- 7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"**
- 8 "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?"**

Now those of you familiar with the "*Pentecostal Movement*" know that this Passage is supposedly the "*foundational proof text*" that gives this Movement the Authority to teach one of their fundamental Doctrines:

Saved people are supposed to have another Experience of being "filled" (baptized) with the Holy Spirit- AFTER THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN SAVED. And the Evidence or Proof that you have been "filled" (baptized) is that you speak with tongues.

This is the official and formal Doctrine of Pentecostal Groups like *the Assemblies of God; the Church of God; the Church of God in Christ*, and many other small independent churches.

But I want you to notice that verses 6&8 use the word, "**Language**"; while verse 4 uses the word, "**Tongues**". Verse 4 says,

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

... which seems to give credibility to what the Pentecostals teach. And the prefix, "**other**" in this verse is said to mean an "unknown and unlearned" tongue. So, this

seems to say that speaking with “other” (unknown) tongues is a viable biblical Truth and available for ALL believers today. But now please look again at verses 5-8, that says:

5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.

7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

8 "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?"

... which seems to suggest that the “**Tongues**” of verse 4 is actually a formal developed language that was spoken by the people of those other nations. So, which one is it?

Now many would suggest that we have a “*Mexican Stalemate*” here because *some* believers teach that speaking with “**other tongues**” is a supernatural Gift of the Holy Spirit where the tongue is an “*unknown tongue*” (i.e. a prayer language²) that the Spirit sovereignly gives- *spontaneously*- to believers for their own personal edification.

Yet other believers teach that this Miracle in **The Acts 2** was God giving the Apostles the ability to reach the Gentile nations with the Gospel by allowing them to preach in the languages of those other nations that they haven’t been taught.

So, which one is it? Protestants around the world are divided over this Issue in our day- due to the difference in Interpretation. But they shouldn’t be. Because by allowing the Bible to interpret the Bible- we find out that the Greek word (*glossa*; Strong’s # 1100) that was translated into English as “**tongues**” in verse 4 means: *the language used by a particular people*; while the Greek word (*dialektos*; Strong’s #1258) that Dr. Luke used when he wrote down verses 5-8 that was translated into English as “**language**” means: *the language used by a particular people*.
WHICH IS THE EXACT SAME DEFINITION!

² The early records of the Pentecostal Movement clearly show that the initial understanding by the Pentecostals about speaking in tongues was that God was giving some people the ability to speak in a foreign language (i.e. Spanish, Russian, Chinese, etc.)- without having to go to school and learn that language. But when Missionaries came home from the field and told their Leaders that the tongues they were speaking in was NOT a foreign language- the Leaders of the Movement stopped teaching that. It wasn’t until around 1960 that Fuller Theological Seminary began teaching that speaking in tongues was a special “prayer language” that God had given certain individuals.

And this tells us that Dr. Luke (and the Apostles) did NOT believe and was NOT teaching in **the Book of the Acts** that the “**other tongues**” in verse 4 was any different from the “**languages**” of those other nations in verses 6&8. And we get that from simply allowing the Bible to interpret itself. The very precise Greek words that Dr. Luke wrote down have very narrow and precise meanings. And that means that no one has the Authority to *create* an Interpretation that is different from what the writer (Dr. Luke) intended.

Okay, but what about allowing the New Testament to interpret the Old. One of the best examples of this “*Hermeneutic Principle*” is found in the very first Christian Sermon given by Peter on the balcony of that Upper Room found in **The Acts 2:14-36** that says,

14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

15 "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day;

16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.

19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.

20 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.

21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know —

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

25 "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.

26 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;

27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

28 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'

29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now there is enough in this Passage for several Sermons- but I want to limit our discussion on just a few verses where Peter is quoting an Old Testament Prophecy. And he begins this amazing Miracle of Interpretation by first saying this in **The Acts 2:16:**

but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

Now the **“this”** that Peter refers to here is what was going on in the Upper Room on that day- with those people- 2,000 years ago. So, Peter is preaching that the Miracle of the Holy Spirit filling the entire Room; the tongues of Fire resting on each of the 120 people who were there; their ability to preach the Glorious Gospel of Salvation coming to “Whosoever will” trust in the Life; Death; and

Resurrection of Jesus; and their ability to preach in languages that they had never learned- is the *fulfillment* of what God the Spirit spoke through the Prophet Joel-

17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.

19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.

20 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.

21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

Now how did Peter know to say this? I mean, who does Peter think he is- to interpret the Prophecy of Joel to be fulfilled on that day and in that City- with those people?

This shows us the miraculous Gifting that the Apostles had. Here, in these five verses, the Apostle Peter is *restating* or *quoting* a Passage from the Old Testament Prophet **Joel 2:28-32**. Then in **The Acts 2:22-24**, the Apostle is using the Divine Gift that the Apostles had- by rightly and fully *interpreting* what Joel meant when he said:

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know —

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Next, in **The Acts 2:25-28**, Peter quotes from **Psalm 16:8-11** when he said,

25 "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.

26 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; 27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

28 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'

... and in **The Acts 2:30&31**- Peter quoted from **Psalm 132:11; 2Samuel 7:12;** and **Psalm 89:3**. And then, finally, in **The Acts 2:34** Peter quotes from **Psalm 110:1**.

And in each case- after *restating* or *quoting* what the Old Testament Prophets had predicted- Peter gave the Interpretation of what those Prophets meant by what they said.

Now there is a lot here. And I could get into many aspects of this- but suffice it to say that in each and every case- Peter says that the Old Testament Prophecy was fulfilled- in its *entirety*- by the Life; Death; and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now keep in mind that the fact that Peter's interpretation of these 6 different Old Testament Prophecies is now found in New Testament Scripture- makes Peter's Interpretation to be "Inspired"; "Inerrant"; "Infallible"; "Relevant"; and "Sufficient". In other words, what Peter said these Old Testament Passages mean- is what they mean. And that means that *nobody* has the Authority to arrive at a different Interpretation. In other words, because Peter's Interpretation is New Testament Scripture- what he said these 6 Passages mean- is now set in concrete.

So now I want to use this very same "*Hermeneutic Principle*" of allowing the New Testament to interpret the Old- with the Prophecy of Haggai that is before us today. So, here is what Haggai said,

Haggai 2:5-9

5 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'

6 "For thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.

7 'I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, 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 will be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the Lord of hosts.'

And we discovered last time that this Prophecy was restated or quoted by the man, who wrote the **Epistle to the Hebrews**. And here is what he said in **Hebrews 12:14-29**:

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

16 that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

18 For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,

19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.

20 For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED."

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling."

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."

27 This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Now the restating or the quoting from **Haggai** is found in verse 26 that says,

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."

.. and this is a quote from **Haggai 2: 6-9** that says,

6 "For thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.

7 'I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, 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 will be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the Lord of hosts."

Now the fact that Haggai says MORE than what the writer of **Hebrews** says is not important as far as the Interpretation is concerned- because the *entirety* of what the Prophet Haggai is talking about here in **Haggai 2:6-9** is what the writer of **Hebrews** is referring to- even though he doesn't quote it all.

So, whereas we might be tempted to see verses 6-9 of **Haggai 2** as being connected to the Events of Haggai's day- such as the coming invasion of the Babylonians into the Land of Judah; and the rebuilding of the 2nd Temple- the writer of **Hebrews** clearly teaches that what Haggai said some 500 years earlier had to do with the earthshaking Occurrence of the *finalization* of the First or the Old Covenant (along with the bringing in of the New Covenant) and the brilliant Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, let's carefully examine the inspired Interpretation of Haggai's prophetic Utterance that the writer of **Hebrews** was moved on by God the Holy Spirit to bring forth.

Verses 14-17: the writer is encouraging the believing Jews of that small Church in modern day Turkey around 68AD- to *persevere* faithfully by and through their own progressive Sanctification.

Verses 18-20: The writer begins verse 18 with the word, “**For**”- which should be understood as being “**BECAUSE**”- which gives us the reason behind what he said in verses 14-17. And then he describes the *first* Mountain- “Sinai”- and then he says, “**You have NOT come to that** Mountain- which *symbolizes* the Old Covenant.

Verses 22-24: The “other” Mountain in this Passage in **Hebrews**- is “Mount Zion”. And this is symbolic of the New Covenant. And the writer says believing Jews **HAVE** been called to *this* Mountain.

Verses 25-27: This illustrates the *seriousness* about the Divine Call that the Jew has to *leave* Mount Sinai (the Old Covenant) and not *refuse* Mount Zion (the New Covenant). And it is here (verse 26) where the Prophecy of Haggai is quoted- illustrating that what shall be shaken- is the Old Covenant.

Verses 28&29: Here the writer uses the word, “Kingdom”- illustrating that the Kingdom that the New Covenant deals with is NOT the kingdom of Israel- but a far more glorious one. And, unlike Israel which has been shaken many times throughout its history- this glorious New Kingdom CANNOT be shaken. And this is written to teach us that, unlike the Old Covenant- the New Covenant is eternal.

Now we need to keep in mind that the writer of **Hebrews** wrote down Inspired; Inerrant; Infallible; Relevant; and Sufficient Scripture. And he is one of only 40 men in the History of the world that can make that claim. But that means that he wasn’t giving us his opinion. God the Holy Spirit “moved” on this man to the extent that what he wrote down is the Word of the living God.

But what he writes here had to be very difficult for the believing Jews of the 1st Century to hear and even more difficult for them to obey. We need to remember that the Old Covenant represented EVERYTHING these Jews held dear to themselves- so much so- that they didn’t even know how to worship God outside of animal sacrifices; the Levitical Priesthood; the Temple in Jerusalem; the Sanhedrin Court; and the dietary and ceremonial aspects of the Law.

And yet this writer tells them not only to “leave” or “abandon” ALL of this- but he also says that if they continue to endeavor to worship God under the auspices of the Old Covenant- they are sinning!

And the writer of **Hebrews** says that this is the great “Shaking” that Haggai was “moved” to predict. God created the Old Covenant. And the Jew lived underneath this Covenant for hundreds and hundreds of years. It was not merely the way they worshipped God- it was the entire way in which they lived their lives. Look what the writer said in **Hebrews 2:2-4:**

**2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,
3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.**

Now the “**Word spoken through angels**” is the Old Testament- which is the Law of God- working in concert through the Old Covenant. Now I’m not exactly certain how this worked- but the Bible clearly teaches that the Old Covenant was originally given by way of Angels- moving by and through God the Holy Spirit’s inspiration of several different writers- *including* Moses (**The Acts 7:38& 53; Psalm 68:17**).

And this is what the writer talked about in the beginning of this Book, when he said this in **Hebrews 1:1-4**:

**1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.**

Notice here in verse 4 that immediately after the writer talks about how under the New Covenant- God speaks to us “by”; “through”; or “in” His Son- rather than “by”; “through”; or “in” the Prophets- and immediately after he talks about Jesus being the “**radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power**”- he begins to discuss how Jesus is *superior* to the angels.

In fact, from **Hebrews 1:4**- all the way down to the end of Chapter 2- this man goes into great detail of how Jesus is *superior* to the angels. And there are at least two reasons for this:

1. Over the Centuries, the Jews had continually embellished the Power and Purpose of angels to mimic the myths of the nations of the world. And by the time of the 1st Century- the Jews had a complete Man-made Theology

about angels that was purely pagan. So, the writer was helping the Jews get out of that false Teaching by teaching them about the full Deity of Jesus.

2. Angels played a Role in the giving of the Law. And the writer was showing them the *superiority* of the New Covenant by saying that the New Covenant came about *directly* from God the Holy Spirit- by-passing the angels completely.

So, because God is the only One Who gave Mankind the *First* or the *Old* Covenant in the first place- only God could make the Old Covenant *completely obsolete* by bringing in the New Covenant. But this transition from the Signs and Symbols and Types of the Old Covenant and into the Reality of the New Covenant was difficult for most of the Jews.

We need to remember that Jews, who had trusted in Jesus for Salvation- were still sacrificing animals; they were still adhering to the dietary and ceremonial aspects of the Law- many decades AFTER Jesus had risen from the dead. In their mind- they were sinning by NOT striving to obey all that Moses and the Prophets had taught in the 39 Books of the Old Testament. And that is why God moved so that Books like **Galatians** and **Hebrews** were written- to teach believers- *especially* Jews- how to make that transition between the Old to the New.

So, the writer of **Hebrews** infallibly teaches here that God shook both the Heavens and the Earth- so that it became obvious that God no longer desired and He no longer blessed those, who were striving to keep the tenets of the Old Covenant.

Now look again at how the writer of **Hebrews** *continues* to interpret the “Shaking” that Haggai had predicted in **Hebrews 12:27**:

This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Now when the writer of **Hebrews** quotes the phrase, “**once more**” here- he is drawing the reader’s attention to **Haggai 2:6**- which indicates that this spiritual shaking is NOT the first time God has had to shake the Jews. The history of the Jews is one of an almost *constant* shaking by God. The pages of the Old Testament are filled with example after example of the Jew’s hard heart and their stiff neck and their natural rebellion against God and His Will and Word.

But this Shaking is different than all the others. This time- God is NOT shaking the Jew so that they will repent and strive to adhere to His Word in the Old Testament. No, this time God is shaking the Jew so that they will

completely *abandon* the Old Covenant and press on to the mature and completed and finished Revelation of God in the New.

But also please notice how the writer describes the Old Covenant in verse 27:

This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

He says here that this Shaking is going to REMOVE everything that CAN be shaken- as though it was a “**created thing**” or as something that had NOT always been in existence.

And this is huge when you begin to understand that the New Covenant- the Covenant that came AFTER the Old Covenant- was God’s Plan all along. In other words, the Old Covenant was NOT always in effect. For example, not a single person in the **Book of Genesis** operated and worshipped God under the Old Covenant- *including* Abraham. The Old Covenant was not given until 430 years AFTER Abraham. Please look at **Hebrews 10:1-9:**

1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.

4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME;

6 IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

7 "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'"

8 After saying above, "SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them" (which are offered according to the Law),

9 then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL." He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

So, the First or the Old Covenant was *inferior* in that it was a *bilateral* Covenant. God said to Man, “*You do this; and I will do that.*” But God also said, “*If you don’t do this- I will not only NOT do My Part- but I will judge you for not doing your part.*” But the New Covenant is infinitely *superior* to the Old in that it is a *unilateral* Covenant- in that God said, “*I will do My Part and I will do your Part too!*”

And it was the “taking away” of the First Covenant that was the Great Shaking. But even though going from the Old to the New Covenant caused a great Shaking- it had to be done. Because, as the writer says here in verse 9- the New Covenant could NOT be established until the First Covenant was taken away.

So, this is the Great Shaking that Haggai predicted. God is going to bring to an End the Old Covenant and through the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus- God is going to establish *another* Covenant- a New Covenant! And the bringing in of this New Covenant does two things:

1. It makes the Old Covenant obsolete
2. It illustrates the Old Covenant as being a created thing- and NOT the Covenant that is eternal

Okay, but what about the Promise of God through Haggai that said,

The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the Lord of hosts

So, God has promised a “**Glory**” of another House that will be *greater* than the Glory that God gave to Solomon’s Temple- which Haggai says is the “**former House**”.

The first permanent Temple in Jerusalem was Solomon’s Temple that was dedicated around 956BC. And at the dedication of that “former House”- 120,000 sheep and 12,000 oxen were slaughtered! And in **1Kings 8:10&11**, the Bible says,

**10 It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord,
11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.**

So, this was an amazing and powerful Glory! And that means that Solomon’s Temple represents the *zenith* of the Old Covenant. Everything about

the Temple; and the Levitical Priests; and the Sanhedrin Court; and even the City of Jerusalem itself went downhill after Solomon's Temple. And it will NEVER be restored.

So, because the people sinned against God- Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the hands of the Babylonians around 586BC.

And now here, about 70 years after the Babylonian's had destroyed Solomon's Temple and taken the Jews captive- God has now raised up the Prophet Haggai- who has instructed the people to build a *second* Temple in Jerusalem.

Now we have already seen how Haggai was dismayed because the people were taking care of their own things and letting the House of God sit in ruins. And so, Haggai prophesies that God is with them and for them to go ahead and build this "second" Temple. And then in **Haggai 2:9** the Prophet said,

The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the Lord of hosts

... which seems to say that this second Temple will be far more glorious than Solomon's Temple. But is that what Haggai was actually talking about? And the writer of Hebrews answers by saying, "No!" There is yet another Temple or House of God that will fulfill this Prophecy. But it will NOT be an earthly Temple- but a heavenly one.

Now history tells us that the Glory of the *second* Temple that they built was nowhere near as much as with the *first* Temple. And as the Centuries went on- this *second* Temple fell into disrepair. And so, over and over again- it had to be refurbished. And then, at almost the End of the Era before Christ- an unsaved, pagan Ruler of Israel- his name was Herod- put a lot of money and a lot of effort into refurbishing this dilapidated Temple. And in their gratefulness- the Jews called this second Temple, "*Herod's Temple*".

But we need to realize that the Glory of God is not for sale. And so, a pagan unsaved king could NEVER bring God's Glory to this second Temple. Herod was a brutal and violent pagan, who set himself up to be, the "*King of the Jews*". And it was only because of their hard hearts and stiff necks that the Jews were happy that an unsaved pagan built their Temple.

But God didn't enjoy this second Temple. And so, He didn't honor it. It was in *this* Temple that pigs had been sacrificed on the altar; and the blood of the priests had been shed when they got out of favor with Herod. And *this* is the Temple that Jesus promised to tear down, when He said this in **Matthew 24:1&2**,

24 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

... and this is the Temple that was, in fact, torn down in 70AD by Titus Vespasian.

But why would God incarnate want to tear down the very Core of the Old Covenant (the Temple)? It was God, Who told them to build it. So, why would He now want it torn down? Historically, it was so the Jew would repent and turn and be faithful to the Old Covenant. But this is Jesus saying this- the mediator of a better Covenant (**Hebrews 12:24**).

And that tells us that God wasn't judging the Jews so, they would repent and faithfully adhere to the Old Covenant. This time God was tearing down the Temple so that the Jew would abandon the Old Covenant and press on to the New Covenant- and the infinite better Glory of a heavenly Sanctuary.

But that also means that the Prophecy of Haggai was NOT about this *second* Temple. And neither is it about a *third* Temple that many believe will be built on that very site at some point in the future. Why?

The Acts 17:24 says,

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands

... and **2Corinthians 5:1-4** says,

1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.

4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

... and **Hebrews 9:22-28** says,

22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

25 nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own.

26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

... and Hebrews 9:1-12 says,

9 Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.

2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.

3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies,

4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;

5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship,

7 but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

8 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,

10 since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;

12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

... and so, now- under the auspices of the New Covenant- building another Temple in Jerusalem to house the Glory of God- is blasphemy!

Okay, but what about what Haggai said? We have to understand that it was this second Temple- Herod's Temple- that illustrated all that was *inferior* about the Old Covenant. And so, anyone operating under that Old mentality can NEVER bring about the Glory of God! Why? Because the Old has become obsolete and is good for nothing except to be abandoned!

So, is the Old Covenant Sin? No, and neither is the Old Testament. However, trying to go back down the Mountain in order to fit in with that inferior Covenant- in its animal sacrifices and a Levitical Priests and a Sanhedrin Court- with all the dietary and ceremonial aspects- now that Jesus has come and died and risen again- is highly offensive to Jesus. Why? Because it is saying that Who Jesus is and what Jesus alone did- is not enough!

Okay but what about the Promise that **“the Glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former”**? The Answer is that the **“latter house”** Haggai was talking about- is NOT a physical building. And it will NEVER be a physical building in the future. It is certainly NOT a physical building built for the glory of a pagan king. And it certainly is NOT a physical building that represents everything that is wrong with the Old Covenant.

The **“latter house”** that Haggai prophesied about is the invisible Church of Jesus Christ- which is represented in the New Testament by the city of New Jerusalem. Look at what the Apostle John infallibly wrote down in **The Revelation 21:21- 22:27:**

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

**5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."
And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."**

6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." The New Jerusalem

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.

18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;

26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it (Haggai 2:7);

27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Amen. Let's pray.

© 2022 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church PO Box 2906 Gulfport, Mississippi 39505 www.covenantofpeace.net
Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of verse- by- verse Teachings taken from the **Book of Haggai**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.