

The Best Is Yet to Come

Chad Hutson / General Adult

Haggai: A Matter of Priorities / Haggai 2:1-9

In times of discouragement, God invites His people to be strengthened by His promises and to anticipate His glorious work, which will exceed our expectations.

Discouragement

God acknowledges the people's feelings of disappointment as they compare the past glory of Solomon's temple with the present, unfinished state. He understands our discouragement and validates our feelings. However, we are not to dwell solely in comparison with the past. Instead, we are to move forward, trusting that God's promises extend beyond our immediate perceptions.

[Ezra 3:12](#); [Lamentations 3:19-24](#), [31-33](#);

Encouragement

God commands the leaders and people to "be strong" while promising His presence with them. Our courage and strength come from knowing that God is with us, not passively, but actively. The greatest comfort is the greater promise of Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus Christ. Thus, believers are encouraged and empowered to continue their work for the Lord.

[1 Kings 8:10-11](#); [Joshua 1:5-6](#); [Deuteronomy 31:6-7](#);

Rearrangement

God's promise of future glory exceeds the former glory of the temple, pointing to the spiritual reality fulfilled in Christ. God shakes circumstances to usher in His peace and glory. His work often involves shaking, which removes what is temporary and reveals what is unshakeable. Christ's kingdom is unshakeable and eternal so we are to anticipate God's greater work beyond current discouragements, viewing Christ as the culmination of God's glorious promise.

[Exodus 19:18](#); [Luke 2:32](#); [John 1:14](#); [17:22](#); [Revelation 21:3](#), [22-23](#), [26](#);