

## **Haggai Pt 3 The Latter Glory**

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Haggai / Haggai 2:1–9

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# Introduction: When Obedience Feels Small

### **Haggai 2:1–9 BSB**

<sup>1</sup> On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet, saying:

<sup>2</sup> “Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and also to the remnant of the people. Ask them,

<sup>3</sup> ‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not appear to you like nothing in comparison?’

<sup>4</sup> But now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. And be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work! For I am with you, declares the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>5</sup> This is the promise I made to you when you came out of

Egypt. And My Spirit remains among you; do not be afraid.”

<sup>6</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts says: “Once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

<sup>7</sup> I will shake all the nations, and they will come with all their treasures, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>8</sup> The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, declares the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>9</sup> The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former, says the LORD of Hosts. And in this place I will provide peace, declares the LORD of Hosts.”

The people have obeyed. They've stopped drifting. They've started rebuilding the temple.

But about a month into the work, reality sets in.

They look at what they're building and feel disappointed. The foundation is laid. The walls are starting to go up. But this temple is nothing like Solomon's temple. It's smaller. It's plainer. It looks humble compared to what used to stand on this spot.

Some of the older people in the community actually

remember Solomon's temple before it was destroyed. They're looking at this new structure and thinking, "Is this really what we gave up everything for?"

Doubt creeps in. Discouragement settles over the project.

This is when God speaks again.

# Part 1: The Problem of Comparison

## A Very Human Struggle

Haggai 2:1–3 sets the scene:

"In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying, 'Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?'" (Haggai 2:1–3, ESV)

God is asking a direct question. He's acknowledging what they're feeling. Some of you remember the old temple. You're looking at this new one. And it looks like nothing

compared to what used to be here.

God doesn't deny their comparison. He names it.

This is important. God isn't pretending their disappointment doesn't exist. He's not gaslighting them or telling them to ignore reality. He's saying, "I see what you're feeling. I understand."

## The Trap of Comparison

But here's the thing about comparison: it blinds you to what's actually good.

The people are so focused on what this temple isn't—not as grand as Solomon's, not as impressive, not as much like the glory days—that they're missing what it actually is.

It's the place where God will dwell. It's the symbol of His commitment to them. It's proof that they survived exile and can rebuild.

But comparison kills gratitude. It kills vision. It makes people want to quit.

## Part 2: The Call to Courage

# Be Strong, Work

God's response comes in Haggai 2:4:

## **Haggai 2:4 BSB**

<sup>4</sup> But now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. And be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work! For I am with you, declares the LORD of Hosts.

Three times God says "be strong." He's calling them to courage. To steadfastness. To not letting discouragement paralyze them.

And then He says, "Work."

Not, "Feel better and then work." Not, "Wait until you have more resources and then work." Just, "Work."

Keep going. Push through the disappointment. Do the next right thing.

And notice why they can do this: "for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts."

It's the same promise from before. God's presence. It's not just a nice spiritual sentiment. It's the actual reason they can keep working even when the work feels small and

inadequate.

# Part 3: The Covenant and the Promise

## My Spirit Remains

Haggai 2:5 connects this moment to the bigger story:

### **Haggai 2:5 BSB**

<sup>5</sup> This is the promise I made to you when you came out of Egypt. And My Spirit remains among you; do not be afraid.”

God is reminding them of history. When did I first commit to you? When I brought you out of Egypt. That was the moment of covenant, of promise, of God binding Himself to be their God.

And that covenant hasn't changed. My Spirit still remains in the midst of you.

This is stunning. They're discouraged because the building looks small. But God is saying, "Your security isn't in the size of the building. It's in My presence. My Spirit is here. That hasn't changed."

# Part 4: The Shaking and the Glory

## What's Coming

Then God shifts to future promises:

### **Haggai 2:6-7 BSB**

<sup>6</sup> For this is what the LORD of Hosts says: “Once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

<sup>7</sup> I will shake all the nations, and they will come with all their treasures, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of Hosts.

This is big language. God is talking about shaking the heavens and the earth. He's talking about disrupting nations. He's talking about the treasures of all nations flowing in.

The people are looking at a modest building in a small land under Persian rule. But God is saying: I'm going to reshape the world. And this modest temple is going to be at the center of it.

# The Latter Glory

Then comes the climax:

## **Haggai 2:8-9 BSB**

<sup>8</sup> The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, declares the LORD of Hosts.

<sup>9</sup> The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former, says the LORD of Hosts. And in this place I will provide peace, declares the LORD of Hosts.”

"The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former."

The people are measuring this temple against Solomon's temple and feeling disappointed. But God says, "You're measuring against the wrong timeline. This temple's real glory is in the future. And it's going to be greater than anything Solomon built."

How? Because God will fill it with His glory. The nations will bring their treasures. And more than that, God will establish peace here. Not temporary peace. Not just a ceasefire. But genuine, lasting peace.

## Part 5: Understanding the

# Promise

## A Temple That Outlasts Empires

When God talks about shaking the nations, He's talking about real historical change. Empires rise and fall. Nations disappear. But God's purposes move forward through it all.

The people listening to Haggai are living under Persian rule. Persia seems permanent. The empire seems solid. But God is saying, "I will shake it. Things will change. And through all of that change, My purposes will advance."

Solomon's temple was destroyed. This new temple will see invasions too. But it will endure. It will be rebuilt again. And the real glory—God's presence, His peace, His blessing—will be there.

## Not Just a Building

When Haggai talks about the "latter glory," he's not just talking about a more impressive structure. He's talking about something deeper.

The former glory of Solomon's temple was about human achievement and power. It was magnificent. It was impressive. But it could be destroyed.

The latter glory is about God's unshakable kingdom. It's about His presence that can't be taken away. It's about a peace that the world can't give and can't take.

That's a different kind of glory entirely.

## Part 6: The Challenge of Faith

### Believing What You Can't See

Here's what Haggai (and the Lord) is asking of the people: believe in a glory you can't see yet.

You're looking at a modest building. You're under foreign rule. You're in a small nation with limited resources. But God is saying, "Trust Me. This is going to be glorious. Not in the way you imagine, but in a way that matters infinitely more."

That takes faith. Real faith. The kind that doesn't depend on visible evidence.

### The Mirror: Our Modest Obedience

This speaks to something many of us wrestle with.

You're trying to follow Jesus. You're building something in

your family, your church, your community. But it feels small. It feels like it's not making a difference. It feels like your work is being swallowed up by bigger forces in the world.

A mother prays for her kids every day. A small group meets to study Scripture together. A business owner treats their employees with integrity when nobody's watching. A person forgives someone who wronged them, with no guarantee the other person will change.

None of this looks impressive. None of it makes the news. It all feels small.

But Haggai is saying: you don't see the full picture yet. God is at work. He's weaving your faithfulness into something bigger than you can imagine. The latter glory of your obedience is going to be greater than the former—greater than what you can see right now.

## Part 7: The Real Measure of Success

### Not What the World Measures

The world measures success by size. By visibility. By impressive results you can point to.

The people in Haggai's day felt like failures because their temple didn't match Solomon's. The world would have agreed. By worldly standards, this was a step backward.

But God measures success differently. He measures it by presence. By faithfulness. By whether you're building something that lasts because it's rooted in Him.

## Peace, Not Prosperity

Notice what God promises at the end: "in this place I will give peace."

Not prosperity. Not power. Peace.

This temple won't make Judah a superpower. It won't reverse the loss of political independence. The people will still live under foreign rule.

But there will be peace. Internal peace. The peace that comes from knowing God is present. The peace that comes from being aligned with God's purposes. The peace that comes from hope in something unshakable.

That's the real glory.

## Part 8: Living With Future Hope

# The Invitation

Haggai 2:1–9 invites you to a different way of measuring your life.

Stop comparing your work to what came before. Stop measuring by what the world says is impressive. Stop looking at what you can see right now and assuming that's all there is.

Instead, trust that God is at work. He's taking your small obedience and weaving it into something magnificent. He's establishing a peace in your life that outlasts all the shaking around you.

That's not magical thinking. That's faith. And it's available to you right now.

## From This Moment On

You don't have to wait for the future glory to start experiencing it. You can experience God's peace right now. You can know His presence right now. You can trust His promises right now.

The people in Haggai's day didn't have to wait until the temple was finished to feel encouraged. God met them in

their discouragement with a promise.

He'll do the same for you.