

## Rebuilding The Glory

- ❖ Today there are nations of the world where it seems that the glory of God has receded, while other nations have boomed with a great manifestation of the Holy Spirit. America used to be one of those nations, leading the charismatic movement for many decades. But somewhere along the line it seems that this glory that was once seen frequently and lavishly has left many of our churches. Today my goal is for us to find our way back to the Glory of God. Does anybody want to get the Glory back?
- ❖ Reference Scripture : Haggai 2:1-9
  - In the second year of King Darius, <sup>1</sup> in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: <sup>2</sup> Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, <sup>3</sup> Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? <sup>4</sup> Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, <sup>5</sup> according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. <sup>6</sup> For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; <sup>7</sup> and I will shake

all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>8</sup> The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup> The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

❖ Pray

- ❖ Before we get in deep, I want to lay some groundwork. Throughout your Bible there have been physical manifestations of the glory of God, particularly with the houses that He resided in. Starting with **Moses in Exodus 40** we see that God has constructed a tabernacle, a place of worship, for the Lord, and it says that as soon as they got done setting the ark of the covenant within the tabernacle that the Glory of God fell upon the tabernacle and resided in it. His presence came down so heavy and tangibly that your Bible describes it as a thick cloud, so much so that the priests had to get out. They couldn't even do their jobs.

➤ **The Arrival of the Glory**

- As I've taught before, the temple was based upon the threefold nature of man; outer court, inner court, holy of holies, and body, mind, and spirit man.
- It's not a coincidence that once the ark of God's presence was placed within the inner most place, that the glory came down and covered the tabernacle. Many scholars believe that this initial covering of the tabernacle before filling it was a form of sanctification. This is just like the life of the believer, once we have truly accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior and place

His throne upon the seat of our heart that His glory sanctifies our flesh and fills our lives.

- **It was a physical manifestation!** That's why it scares me that we have men and women who call themselves Christians, yet there is no physical manifestation of change. If we truly encounter the Glory of God, it will be so heavy in your life that every religious preconceived notion run out just as the priests had to.
- If we walk a little further through our Bibles, we come to 1 Kgs. 8 and 2 Chron. 5. Both portray the dedication ceremony of the temple built by Solomon.
  - If you remember, David had become king and accomplished so much. In his grand palace he looks down to the tabernacle of God that Moses had constructed, and he felt guilt for the splendor of his house while the Lord's house seemed so mundane. So, he begins to speak to the prophet Nathan about his plans to construct a beautiful temple befitting a God so great as Yahweh. But Nathan tells him in 2 Sam. 7, that God never asked him to build a house, but better yet He would make David a house. I don't believe David truly understood what God meant by this, so He told David that his son Solomon would build the temple.
  - That's what we have here in 1 Kgs. 8 and 2 Chron. 5. It says that, just as with the tabernacle as soon as the ark of God's presence was placed in the Holy of Holies the Glory of God came down like a cloud.
    - Side note: notice how the description for the glory gets more intense as it gets more personal. 1 it's called a cloud when it filled the temple when it ran the priests out, 2 it became glory

when it filled the house, and 3 it became a dark thick cloud of God's presence when it came to Solomon and his response to what had happened. There are different dimensions of glory to be experienced the more personal you get with God.

- ◆ There are those that will see a move of God and acknowledge but won't have nothing to do with, there are those who will recognize that there is a glory within that move, and there are those that are confronted with the heavy tangible, physical presence of the Most High God!

- Again, this **was a physical manifestation!**

#### ➤ The Loss of the Glory

- But one day, in probably the saddest portion of your Bible, that glory was lost in Ezekiel 10 and 11. You can read that after so much corruption and sin for so long that the glory of God lifted up from the mercy seat of the holy of holies and made His way out to the inner court, and to the outer courts, to the east entrance to the temple, over the city, out the eastern gate of the city to the mount of olives, and finally away, never to fill that temple again.
- If you study the details of the text, it seems that the glory left on the day of atonement. Ezekiel describes taking handfuls of coals from underneath the glory cloud in the holy of holies. The only time there were coals and incense inside the holy of holies was on the day of atonement where the priest would take handfuls of coals from the altar of sacrifice and place handfuls of incense on those coals from the altar of worship in the inner court. According to Lev. 16 the priest would then enter into the holy of holies and allow that mixture of sacrifice and worship to

create a cloud that would shield him from the glory of God so that he could perform the duties needed that day for the cleansing of the people. But unfortunately, here we have the glory of God exiting and removing his power and protection from the temple of Solomon and the day in which it was needed most. **Each step of the way stopping looking and hoping someone would come to their senses, only for them to be so caught up in their sins that they didn't even notice.**

- This temple is destroyed during the Babylonian exile, but we see here in Haggai 2 and in Ezra 3 that they are rebuilding the temple. As they are rebuilding there are shouts of joy from the younger generation who never witnessed the old temple of Solomon, but there is weeping from the older generation that had witnessed that beautiful place before being deported into exile. Haggai sees all this, and he stands up to address the people and this is where our original text picks up.
  - Notice the usage and placement of the words treasure, gold, silver, and wealth. The glory that Haggai was talking about here is that of appearance. We have been preaching this passage wrong for so many years. The “glory” that he is referring to when he mentions the latter and former houses is that of the beauty of Solomon’s temple.
    - ◆ **They were more worried about the restoration of the opulence of glory, rather than the occupancy of glory.**
    - ◆ **Distraught at the lack of prosperity, rather than the lack of presence.**
  - The glory never entered that second temple

## ➤ The Restoration of Glory

- But there was coming a day that the gospel of John chapter 2 talks about where it says that Jesus revealed His Glory to His disciples. Now, I can't go into the depths of how the revealing of His glory coincides with the wedding and all of the symbolism that holds; that is for another sermon for another day. But it is not a coincidence that the revealing of His glory in bodily form is made just before the cleansing of the temple, which he overturns the table of the money changers. You see, the glory never entered into the second temple built after Babylon, because that wasn't the temple he was trying to build. God was trying to get back to His original plan that He told David, "I'm going to make you a house."

## ➤ Conclusion

- You see before God has always picked a man before he picked a building. He picked Moses before the tabernacle, He picked David before the temple, and He sent His son Jesus to pick 12 men to build His church. That's the rock Jesus meant when he spoke of building His church on a rock that the gates of hell will not prevail against. Men and women who have become to the temple. 1 Cor. Chapters 3 and 6 tell us that we are now the temples of the holy spirit. As pastor Shane said, "we have to get away from a building mentality and get into the body mentality." Once we do this, we will witness a glory that this area has never seen before. A tangible, physical, holy presence of God that sanctifies and inhabits our lives. And the prophecy of Haggai will not go void, "the glory of the latter house will be greater than that of the former."