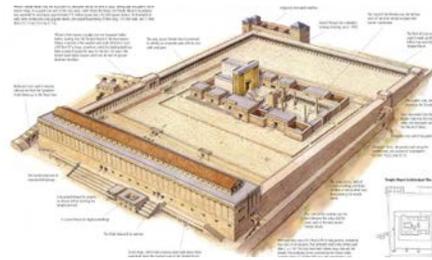


## **THE BOOK OF HAGGAI**

### **"Theology of Glory vs. Theology of the Cross"**

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#### **Date: 3-6-16 Lesson: 3**

**A. (Haggai 2:1-9)** In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, **the word of the Lord** came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, (2) "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, (3) 'Who is left among you who saw **this house in its former glory**? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? (4) Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares **the Lord**. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares **the Lord**. Work, for I am with you, **declares the Lord of hosts**, (5) according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. **My Spirit remains in your midst**. Fear not.

(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.**"

#### **B. The background from the book of Ezra for the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem**

**(Ezra 4:1-24)** Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a **temple to the Lord, the God of Israel**, (2) they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we **worship your God** as you do, and we have been **sacrificing to him** ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here."

(3) But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a **house to our God**; but we alone will build to **the Lord, the God of Israel**, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us." (4) Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build (5) and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

(6) And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. (7) In the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam and Mithredath and Tabeel and the rest of their associates wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia. The letter was written in Aramaic and translated. (8) Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows: (9) Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their associates, the judges, the governors, the officials, the Persians, the men of Erech, the Babylonians, the men of Susa, that is, the Elamites, (10) and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River.

(11) (This is a copy of the letter that they sent.) "To Artaxerxes the king: Your servants, the men of the province Beyond the River, send greeting. And now (12) be it known to the king that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations. (13) Now be it known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and the royal revenue will be impaired.

(14) Now because we eat the salt of the palace and it is not fitting for us to witness the king's dishonor, therefore we send and inform the king, (15) in order that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers. You will find in the book of the records and learn that this city is a rebellious city, hurtful to kings and provinces, and that sedition was stirred up in it from of old. That was why this city was laid waste. (16) We make known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls finished, you will then have no possession in the province Beyond the River."

(17) The king sent an answer: "To Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their associates who live in Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River, greeting. And now (18) the letter that you sent to us has been plainly read before me. (19) And I made a decree, and search has been made, and it has been found that this city from of old has risen against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made in it. (20) And mighty kings have been over Jerusalem, who ruled over the whole province Beyond the River, to whom tribute, custom, and toll were paid.

(21) Therefore make a decree that these men be made to cease, and that this city be not rebuilt, until a decree is made by me. (22) And take care not to be slack in this matter. Why should damage grow to the hurt of the king?" (23) Then, when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their associates, they went in haste to the Jews at Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease. (24) Then **the work on the house of God** that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

**(Ezra 5:1-17)** Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in **the name of the God of Israel who was over them.** (2) Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak arose and began to **rebuild the house of God** that is in Jerusalem, and **the prophets of God** were with them, supporting them.

(3) At the same time Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and their associates came to them and spoke to them thus, "Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?" (4) They also asked them this: "What are the names of the men who are building this building?" (5) But **the eye of their God** was on the elders of the Jews, and they did not stop them until the report should reach Darius and then an answer be returned by letter concerning it.

(6) This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and his associates the governors who were in the province Beyond the River sent to Darius the king. (7) They sent him a report, in which was written as follows: "To Darius the king, all peace. (8) Be it known to the king that we went to the province of Judah, to **the house of the great God.** It is being built with huge stones, and timber is laid in the walls. This work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands. (9) Then we asked those elders and spoke to them thus, 'Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?' (10) We also asked them their names, for your information, that we might write down the names of their leaders.

(11) And this was their reply to us: "**We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth,** and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished. (12) But because our fathers had angered **the God of heaven,** he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia.

(13) However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree that **this house of God should be rebuilt.** (14) And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought into the temple of Babylon, these Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor; (15) and he said to him, "Take these vessels, go and put them in **the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its site.**"

(16) Then this Sheshbazzar came and laid **the foundations of the house of God that is in Jerusalem,** and from that time until now it has been in building, and it is not yet finished.' (17) Therefore, if it seems good to the king, let search be made in the royal archives there in Babylon, to see whether a decree was issued by Cyrus the king for the rebuilding of **this house of God in Jerusalem.** And let the king send us his pleasure in this matter."

**(Ezra 6:1-22)** Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in Babylonia, in the house of the archives where the documents were stored. (2) And in Ecbatana, the capital that is in the province of Media, a scroll was found on which this was written: "A record.

(3) In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king issued a decree: **Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt, the place where sacrifices were offered, and let its foundations be retained**. Its height shall be sixty cubits and its breadth sixty cubits, (4) with three layers of great stones and one layer of timber. Let the cost be paid from the royal treasury. (5) And also let the gold and silver vessels of **the house of God**, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that is in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought back to **the temple that is in Jerusalem**, each to its place. You shall put them in **the house of God**.

(6) "Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and your associates the governors who are in the province Beyond the River, keep away. (7) **Let the work on this house of God alone**. Let the governor of the Jews and the elders of **the Jews rebuild this house of God** on its site. (8) Moreover, I make a decree regarding what you shall do for these elders of the Jews for the rebuilding of **this house of God**. The cost is to be paid to these men in full and without delay from the royal revenue, the tribute of the province from Beyond the River.

(9) And whatever is needed--bulls, rams, or sheep for burnt offerings to **the God of heaven**, wheat, salt, wine, or oil, as the priests at Jerusalem require--let that be given to them day by day without fail, (10) that **they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray** for the life of the king and his sons.

(11) Also I make a decree that if anyone alters this edict, a beam shall be pulled out of his house, and he shall be impaled on it, and his house shall be made a dunghill. (12) **May the God who has caused his name to dwell there overthrow any king or people who shall put out a hand to alter this, or to destroy this house of God that is in Jerusalem**. I Darius make a decree; let it be done with all diligence."

(13) Then, according to the word sent by Darius the king, Tattenai, the governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates did with all diligence what Darius the king had ordered. (14) And the elders of the Jews built and prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building by decree **of the God of Israel** and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia; (15) and **this house was finished** on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

(16) And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. (17) They offered at the **dedication of this house of God** 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel 12 male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. (18) And they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their divisions, **for the service of God at Jerusalem, as it is written in the Book of Moses**. (19) On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles **kept the Passover**. (20) For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were clean. So **they slaughtered the Passover lamb** for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves.

(21) It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by everyone who had joined them and separated himself from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land **to worship the Lord, the God of Israel**. (22) And they **kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the Lord had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel**.

**(Ezra 7:6-28)** this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in **the Law of Moses that the Lord the God of Israel had given**, and the king granted him all that he asked, for **the hand of the Lord his God** was on him. (7) And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king, some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites, the singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants.

(8) And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. (9) For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he

came to Jerusalem, for **the good hand of his God was on him**. (10) For Ezra had set his heart to study **the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel**.

(11) This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, a man learned in matters of the commandments of the Lord and his statutes for Israel: (12) "Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven. Peace. And now (13) I make a decree that anyone of the people of Israel or their priests or Levites in my kingdom, who freely offers to go to Jerusalem, may go with you.

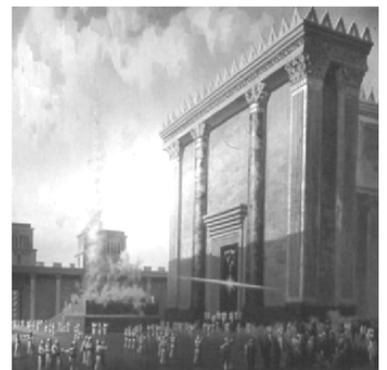
(14) For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make **inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand**, (15) and also to carry the silver and gold that the king and his counselors have freely offered to **the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem**, (16) with all the silver and gold that you shall find in the whole province of Babylonia, and with **the freewill offerings of the people and the priests, vowed willingly for the house of their God that is in Jerusalem**.

(17) With this money, then, you shall with all diligence buy bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and you shall offer them on **the altar of the house of your God** that is in Jerusalem. (18) Whatever seems good to you and your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, you may do, **according to the will of your God**. (19) The vessels that have been given you **for the service of the house of your God, you shall deliver before the God of Jerusalem**. (20) And whatever else is required for the **house of your God**, which it falls to you to provide, you may provide it out of the king's treasury.

(21) "And I, Artaxerxes the king, make a decree to all the treasurers in the province Beyond the River: Whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, requires of you, let it be done with all diligence, (22) up to 100 talents of silver, 100 cors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much. (23) **Whatever is decreed by the God of heaven, let it be done in full for the house of the God of heaven, lest his wrath** be against the realm of the king and his sons.

(24) We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on anyone of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or other servants of this house of God. (25) "And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such the **as know laws of your God**. And those who do not know them, **you shall teach**. (26) **Whoever will not obey the law of your God** and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of his goods or for imprisonment."

(27) **Blessed be the Lord, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem, (28) and who extended to me his steadfast love before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty officers. I took courage, for the hand of the Lord my God was on me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.**



### **C. THE STUDY NOTES**

The building of the second temple was a place much less glorious than the first temple of Solomon, but it had to be rebuilt. Then Herod the Great would remodel it in the time of Jesus.

### **D. THE MEANING FOR US**

**1. The Theology of glory:** The people were fine being back in Jerusalem, building their homes and giving up the building of the temple, God is good! – except they did not want to face the opposition of the pagan people. They feared them more than obeying the Lord and doing as he commanded them.

**2. The Theology of the cross:** The reason God brought them back to Jerusalem was to rebuild the temple so the Passover lamb and the feasts could be offered again. Despite the opposition of the pagans, they will obey God and bear the cross and walk by faith and at all cost rebuild the temple for the Lord – the Passover Lamb!