

Haggai 2

The Glory of the Temple

From ruins ...

I. This House

- A. What Was
- B. Is
- C. And is to Come

II. His Glory

- A. His Presence
- B. His Promise
- C. His Appearance

III. These Stones

- A. Razed
- B. Raised
- C. Reconstructed

... to restoration.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why was the Temple so important to the people of God in the Old Testament?
2. Why were some people sad about the new one that was being built?
3. What does God promise about the Temple in the future?
4. Who was the most glorious person who ever walked in the Temple?
5. There is not Temple for God's people to worship in anymore. Where do God's people worship now?
 - Does it matter what kind of building this takes place in?

Where is the Glory?

The people who went back to Jerusalem after the exile were dedicated to rebuilding the Temple, but they became discouraged. The past splendor of the Solomon's Temple was lost and their efforts to recreate it were disappointing – they had little hope that things would ever get better regarding the hub of worship. There just didn't seem to be anything glorious in any of it anymore. God provided encouragement by reminding them that He was with them and by revealing something of His future to inspire them to press on in their work. What they needed to see was that their current state of affairs was part of God's even more spectacular plan for His kingdom. He had plans to reveal far beyond what they could ever imagine in time to come. The significance of the Temple would diminish over time by design and it would eventually be destroyed altogether. But before that would happen glory would return to the Temple, and with that a whole new era of worship would be ushered in. That would come with the first advent of Christ and the completion of His earthly work. As Jesus said to the Samaritan woman: "the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father." We live, as it were, in that "hour." Even so, labor in the Kingdom can still become discouraging at times – that is, when we lose sight of what God is doing. We, like our counterparts we read about in Haggai, need to remind ourselves regularly that the Lord is with us, that our labors for the kingdom are not in vain, AND that God has a big plan to reveal an even more glorious splendor when the Kingdom comes in its fullness.