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Title : The Shape of Things to Come

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Key Scripture : Book of - Haggai

## Notes

### THE JOURNEY

We are all on a journey whether it's from the cradle to the grave, or spiritual new birth to eternal life in heaven. The challenge in any journey particularly if it's a long one is, we want to know what's there for us up ahead. We desire to know this in order to help keep us motivated and moving in a forward direction, otherwise weariness and tiredness can kick in and we long to quit, stop and go do something else. As a church we've been on a journey with God over 40 years, we've had times of glorious God encounters as well as stretches of ordinariness and some, 'surely it gets better than this' times. As we turn to the book of Haggai we find a people who like us went through similar things and who unfortunately hit a low place, stagnated and needed a prophet of God to come and stir them up in order that they may see what God had for them, to see..

### ***'The Shape of Things to Come'***

<sup>1</sup>On the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet saying, <sup>2</sup> "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying, <sup>3</sup> 'Who is left among you who saw this *house* in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?' <sup>4</sup> But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the Lord, 'and work; for I am with you,' declares the Lord of hosts  
Haggai 2 NASB 1995

### **How many remember what king's used to be like?**

Some will remember... The Toronto Outpouring, A new building project, Millennium Prophetic Encounters, Rivers of Glory Conventions, 24 hour praise and worship events, Birthing of new ministries, numerical growth and the presence and glory of God that seemed to be so powerfully present amongst us.

### **How do you see it now?**

Well until recently, the answer would have been 'It seems as nothing in comparison to that' If it ended there, we would be thankful for the past, hanging in there for the present, but what about the future?

## Personal Response

<sup>6</sup>For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. <sup>7</sup>I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, 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 give peace,' declares the LORD of hosts."

Haggai 2 NASB 1995

### **You ask.. What is the shape of the future?**

The answer - IT'S GLORIOUS - there is greater glory yet to come that will clearly outshine, outstrip, outdo anything seen before. The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former.

### **GLORY - what's that?**

In a nutshell - It's the invisible God moving out of His world and stepping into ours to reveal His; love, forgiveness, mercy, healing, salvation, deliverance, grace, kindness, truth, holiness - all that He is in character and power! It's God in Christ making his home amongst his people!

### **The future starts now!**

Haggai doesn't leave us just wishing for the change and something better but gives us 3 clear things to be doing now to ensure the full measure of the glory truly becomes ours in reality.

#### **1) Consider your ways**

In the second year of Darius the king, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'This people says, "The time has not come, *even* the time for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt."'" <sup>3</sup>Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, <sup>4</sup>"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your panelled houses while this house *lies* desolate?" <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways! <sup>6</sup>You have sown much, but harvest little; *you* eat, but *there is not enough* to be satisfied; *you* drink, but *there is not enough* to become drunk; *you* put on clothing, but no one is warm *enough*; and he who earns, earns wages *to put* into a purse with holes."

Haggai 1NASB 1995

Here are a people who are clearly out of step with Gods word and His ways and as such have become discouraged, disappointed, disloyal and deeply disconnected, from their identify as Gods unique people. The prophet calls them back to a 'prioritised life' i.e. find out what God is doing now and get 100% committed to it.

### **What are your priorities?**

Is 'seeking first His Kingdom' your number no.1?  
Is building His house also up there?

**Ask yourself** - are there any areas of my life that need re-prioritising to align me with the Lord? Is there anything I'm doing or involved in that needs to go or be re-adjusted?

Pray - Psalm 139 (TPT)

<sup>23</sup> God, I invite your searching gaze into my heart.  
Examine me through and through;  
find out everything that may be hidden within me.  
Put me to the test and  
sift through all my anxious cares.  
<sup>24</sup> See if there is any path of pain I'm walking on,  
and lead me back to your glorious,  
everlasting way—  
the path that brings me back to you.

God's word to you - Consider your ways!  
Your word to Him - Teach me your ways!

If you are pleased with me,  
teach me your ways  
so I may know you and continue to  
find favour with you.

Exodus 33:13 NIV

***Find them - Follow them – Finally live them***

## **2) Go up the mountain**

<sup>8</sup> Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD. Haggai 1 NASB 1995

This could mean several things, but we are looking at it as the place where you get alone with the Lord, spend time in His presence seeking to discover the building materials in order to get his house rebuilt, and fit for purpose. This is to bring Him pleasure and to create a place where His glory resides.

3 main things are:

- Seeing in the Spirit
- Hearing His voice
- Getting understanding

As you come, ask him to open up your spiritual eyes, ears and mind. As you see, hear and understand and bring these things into the life of others, so you are becoming a true church builder! Get yourself in shape - get up the mountain - get what is needed.

***Let's see his house being truly  
refurbished for the future!***

### 3) Get fully involved

<sup>4</sup> But now take courage, Zerubbabel,'  
declares the LORD, 'take courage also,  
Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest,  
and all you people of the land take courage,'  
declares the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,'  
declares the LORD of hosts. <sup>5</sup> 'As for the promise  
which I made you when you came out of Egypt,  
My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'  
Haggai 2: 4-5

***The whole church is called to  
build the whole church!***

2 key elements

**Work** - that is - Do what you're gifted to do, what you can do, seek to be a 'meeter of need' as the Lord releases you.

**Courage** - faith in action, doing what I'm not comfortable with or maybe never done before. If the Lord is challenging you to be courageous and tackle your giant head on, it might fall easier than you thought!

***Get yourself in shape  
for the shape of things to come***

Consider your ways... what needs to change?

#### **Go up the mountain**

Give time to be with the Lord  
Receive what he gives  
Bring it to the building-site

#### **Get fully involved**

Get off the fence  
Get a fresh vision  
Get building His house

*The future is glorious - the future is now*

***The future is  
for those who  
prepare themselves  
for it!***

My Questions:

Meditate on:

Act on: