

Kingdom Triumph

Haggai 2:20-23

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²⁰ The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, ²¹ “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, ²² and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother. ²³ On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the LORD, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the LORD of hosts.”

Introduction

Today marks the end of our series on “The Hope for Restoration and Revival” from the book of Haggai. Last week, we considered how the pursuit of holiness and the practice of repentance were foundational to a blessed life in the biblical sense. In addition what we saw last week, we have seen how we must have a fearless faith in the LORD that is marked by reception of His Word, respect for His holiness, and reliance upon His Spirit. And ultimately, all of this requires us to prioritize the will of God in our lives and in our church.

So, if we were going to summarize the hope for restoration and revival in our lives and our church, we could put this way:

We must prioritize and pursue the Will of God as directed by the Word of God in dependence upon the Spirit of God with faith in the Promises of God.

This is our only hope for restoration and revival as a church and as individual believers, but what happens when our priorities and pursuits fail? What happens when the progress slows or even stops? Where do we go when it seems like the Lord is slow to fulfill His promises?

These are the types of questions that I hope to answer this morning as we consider the final section of this wonderful book...

Exposition

I. The LORD will triumph over every obstacle and adversity in our lives (Vss. 20-22)

Look with me at Verses 20-22. What WILL the LORD do according to these verses? The LORD will have triumph over our enemies. Notice the terms used in these verses.

Shake – This term refers to the LORD’s action to bring fear upon those nations that rebel against HIM.

Overthrow – This term speaks of total and instantaneous desolation brought about by means of God’s unlimited power (See *Sodom and Gomorrah*).

Destroy – This term speaks of divine judgment on those who rebel against the LORD.

A self-inflicted end is the destiny of those who rebel against the LORD. (See *Gideon*)

The LORD will have the glory in HIS triumph. It is exceedingly clear from this passage that the LORD takes the initiative in defeating our enemies. Note the use of the first-person language: “I am about to shake... I am about to destroy...”

The LORD is not waiting on these enemies nor is he waiting on us. HE is at work right now in the midst of our circumstances bringing about triumph over every obstacle and adversity that would seek to prevent us from **prioritizing and pursuing His Will as directed by His Word in dependence upon His Spirit with faith in His Promises.**

So how is the LORD doing this? I mean, isn’t this passage primarily about the LORD’s triumph over the enemies of the Jews in this post-exilic stage of life? Verse 23 answers the question for us...

II. The LORD will triumph over every obstacle and adversity through Jesus Christ (Vs. 23)

According to verse 23, The LORD will use THE servant that HE has anointed and appointed to carry out HIS will. In this context, the LORD addresses Zerubbabel as a representative of this person. Why does the LORD address Zerubbabel if it is clear that he is not the one that carries out these events?

In order to understand this, we have to consider the nature and the expectation of Old Testament prophecy. There was an expectation of a Davidic king that would one day sit upon the throne in fulfillment of the promises of the Davidic covenant. (See **2 Samuel 7:10-16**; Cf. **Hosea 3:4-5**; **Ezekiel 34:23-24, 37:24-25**) You either always have a successive descendant of David on the throne (which is clearly not the case) or you eventually have a descendant of David who remains on the throne forever because HE lives forever.

So how does this relate to Zerubbabel? Note the phrase “son of Shealtiel” in verse 23. Who is “Shealtiel”? Well, according to **1 Chronicles 3**, Shealtiel is a descendant of King David, which makes Zerubbabel a descendant of King David. **What’s the point?** Zerubbabel represents God’s faithfulness to fulfill HIS promise to provide a KING from the lineage of David that would reign over HIS people with divine authority. Though Zerubbabel would not be THE one who brought these promises to fulfillment, his existence at this point in Israel’s history gave them hope that the LORD had not abandoned HIS promises or purposes for HIS people.

So if Zerubbabel was not THE one to bring these promises to fulfillment, who would it be?

Matthew 1:12-16 – ¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ **and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.**

The ultimate fulfillment of the LORD's promises in Haggai 2 is found in Jesus Christ. Did you realize that the book of Haggai is helpful not only for encouraging us and strengthening us to prioritize and pursue the Will of God as directed by the Word of God in dependence upon the Spirit of God with faith in the Promises of God, but that is also get us ready to celebrate Christmas?

Jesus Christ is the one who has triumphed, is triumphing, and will triumph over all obstacles and adversity that we encounter in pursuit of restoration. He alone is the bedrock of our hope for revival!

Conclusion

Through Christ, we have hope for restoration and revival. For by His cross (**Col 2:8-15**), He has triumphed over our sin and shame. Through His church (**2 Cor 5:16-21**), He is advancing his triumph through the gospel. In His return (**Rev 19:11-21:8**), He will triumph and reign over all.

And my prayer for us this morning is that when our priorities and pursuits fail, when our progress slows or even stops, that we will hope in the LORD who triumphs over these obstacles through Jesus Christ!