

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.**
(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)*

#04-1073

The Latter Glory of this House

July 25, 2010

I first wrote on this subject in issue #02-08152, December 29, 2008 (same title); however, it centered on a vision I was given of the one new man in Christ as New Jerusalem. Please read it in light of what follows.

(6) “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. (7) 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. (8) ‘The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’ declares the LORD of hosts. (9) ‘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 2:6-9 NASB)

The Lord used Haggai to encourage the remnant that had returned to Jerusalem to finish the work on the second temple that had been stopped for about 14 years due to opposition. The word of the Lord came to the prophet on the 21st day of the 7th month (Haggai 2:1), which means that it came on what should have been the 7th day of the feast of Tabernacles, as given to the sons of Israel through Moses (Leviticus 23:39-44). Haggai made no direct mention of the feast, but as we will see, it is indicated indirectly by the latter glory of the house.

We are given a further indication that Tabernacles was in view by the fact that the name *Haggai* means “festive,” based on the Hebrew word *hag*, which means “feast or festival.”

The glory of the Lord filling the house or temple of the Lord was seen when Solomon finished building the first temple or house and dedicated the altar on the 8th day of the feast of Tabernacles.

Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the house. (2 Chronicles 7:1 NASB)

(8) So Solomon observed the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly who came from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt. (9) On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar they observed seven days and the feast seven days. (10) Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that the LORD had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel. (2 Chronicles 7:8-10 NASB)

Tabernacles is the only feast celebrated that leads into the 23rd day of the 7th month.

Thus, when Haggai received the word of the Lord on the 21st of the 7th month, the glory of the Lord would have been expected to fill the second temple; however, according to the record, the glory did not fill it. Obviously, the 8th or 22nd day came and there was no glory, and there is no indication that the glory ever filled this temple as it did Solomon’s temple. There is definitely no evidence of the latter glory of the second temple being greater than that of the former or first temple (Haggai 2:3).

If this is so, then the question is raised: When does the latter and greater glory fill the house, and to which house does it refer? Because we have the benefit of time and history, we can conclude that Haggai was prophesying about something yet future. Today, there is no physical temple on earth filled with the glory of the Lord, and there has not been one since Solomon’s temple.

Are we to look for a new, physical temple (third temple) to be built in the modern-day earthly Jerusalem? Some people believe this is what, in fact, will occur. But this view must be rejected, for the present Jerusalem in the Jewish state, which has usurped the name of Israel from the sons of Joseph and unlawfully claimed the birthright given to Joseph and his sons (Genesis 48:5, 8, 16; 1 Chronicles 5:1), is in slavery with her children, spiritual Ishmaelites, and must be cast out. As Paul wrote: **The Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother** (Galatians 4:25-31). How can God fill a temple in ancient Jerusalem that is in slavery and that must be cast out? Besides, the book of Hebrews is all about the old or first covenant becoming obsolete and being ready to disappear (Hebrews 8:13), which it did when the Romans completely destroyed Herod's temple in 70 AD.

The answer to which house or temple Haggai's prophesy refers is discovered through Paul.

(19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, (20) having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, (21) in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, (22) in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God *in* [the] Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22 NASB)

On Passover in 33 AD, the cornerstone of a new holy temple was laid in the tomb and three days later, on the first day of the week, which is also a type of the eighth day, the Temple of God rose up from among the dead. Spiritually speaking, the Body of Christ (the corporate Temple of living stones) rose up on the third day as well (Romans 6:3-7).

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19 NASB)

No longer is the Temple of God a physical building on earth made of inorganic stones, but now it is a dwelling of God *in* spirit, living stones being built up as a spiritual house with Jesus as the choice and precious, living corner stone (1 Peter 2:4-6).

Today, the Temple of God is being built on two levels. The first level is in individual believers. **Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you** (1 Corinthians 3:16 NASB)? The second level is in the corporate Body of Christ, which is New Jerusalem, the holy city, the new tabernacle of God (Revelation 21:2, 3) in which **the Lord God the Almighty and the Lambkin** [i.e., the Head joined with the corporate Body of Christ] **are its temple** (Revelation 21:22), meaning New Jerusalem is the Temple of God, and it is filled with the glory of God.

(10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, (11) having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. (Revelation 21:10-11 NASB)

Now, the question remains as to when the glory fills the Temple of God. Today, the glory of God is a hidden treasure in earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7); it is **Christ in you** [the saints], **the hope of glory** (Colossians 1:27). For the glory of the Lord to be manifested in and through the saints (2 Thessalonians 1:10), the earthen vessels, our mortal bodies, must be broken, releasing us into immortality, when **what is mortal will be swallowed up in life** (2 Corinthians 5:1-5). This only comes through resurrection, transfiguration, and immortality that will come through the fall feasts, starting with Trumpets and ending with Tabernacles, especially the last day, the great day (eighth day) of the feast when **'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'** When the water flows, which is the Spirit of God, glory is manifested (John 7:37-39). This is the latter glory of the house that will be greater than the former, and it only comes with immortality that will be first manifested in the anointed first fruits, the conquerors. This is much more than an experience; it is a totally new life in the image and character of the Son of God. When the sons of glory are manifested, **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14), and **the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness** (Isaiah 26:9).