

Better Than Ever

August 23, 2020

"In the second year of King Darius, on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai:

"Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people.

Ask them, 'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?

But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace, declares the Lord Almighty.'"

Haggai 1:15 - 2:9 (NIV)

1. Have you ever revisited a childhood home only to realize it is not as large or wonderful as you remembered? Remind yourself and tell someone what it was like.
2. Have you ever tried to re-experience a powerful spiritual experience only to be disappointed? What happened to your faith when that happened?
3. Even though it is quite exciting for many to return to Sunday am worship are you anxious about the return? What are you anxious about?
4. How has the year 2020 changed your world? Are you concerned about whether or not things will ever be normal again?
5. In today's text God promised that in spite of how things looked so much less than what they used to be, the future is going to be much more glorious than the past ever was. If that's true, and it is, what prayers do you need to pray in order to be ready to participate in our greater future? What decisions do you need to make?