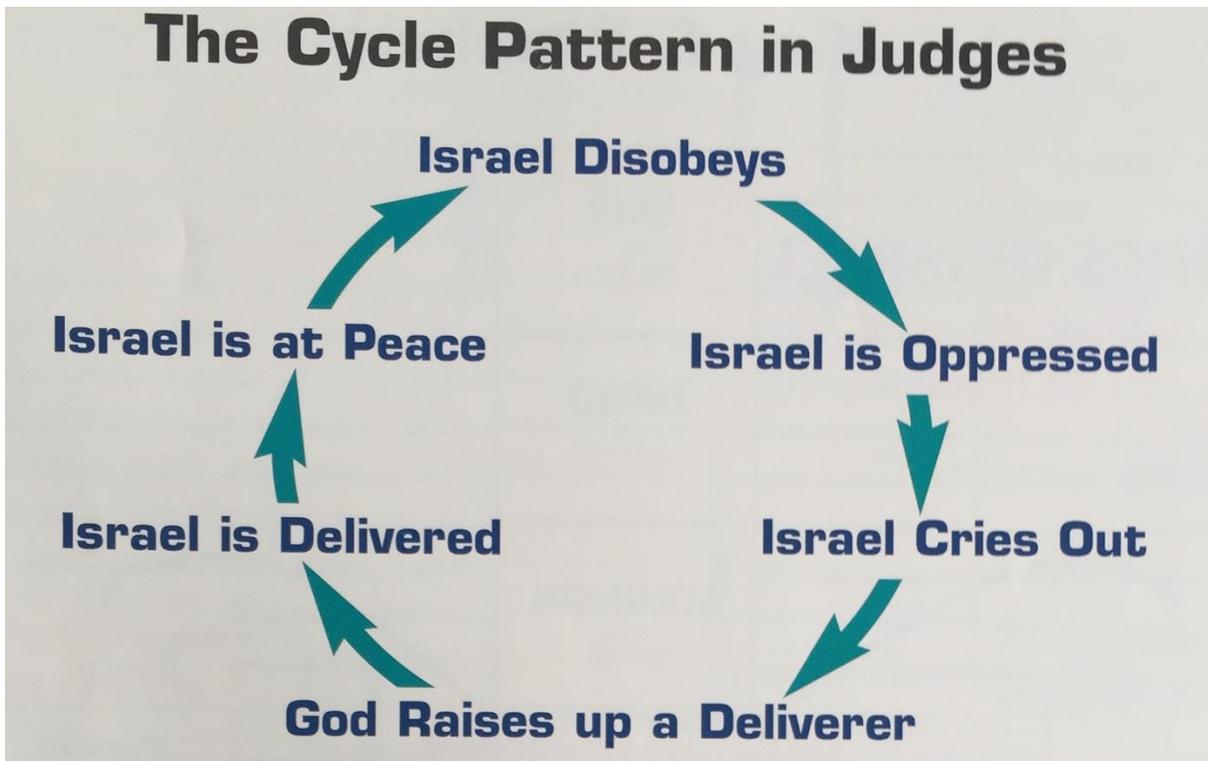


Haggai Lesson 3

Review



1. God forms the nation of Israel according to the promise He made to Abraham when He called him out of Ur to Canaan.
2. Using many miracles, God leads the Israelites out of Egypt, led and sustains them through the wilderness, and through the conquest of Canaan - the promised land.
3. Israel, even in its wandering in the wilderness and later in the promised land exhibits a tendency to forget God and instead worship other gods - in direct defiance of God's commandments. This results in a cycle of disobedience-oppression-repentance-deliverance-peace-disobedience...

4. Eventually, their sin leads to defeat and exile - first, of the northern 10 tribes that constituted Israel (in the Divided Kingdom), and then of the southern 2 tribes.
5. After 70 years of exile, God, working through pagan rulers, brings the Jews back to Judah and Jerusalem. The Jews are instructed to rebuild the temple.
6. After initially laying the foundations of the temple, opposition from the Samaritans causes the work to cease and in the meantime, the people carry on with their own lives without much further thought for the temple - albeit continuing with worship (sacrifices, feasts)
7. **God sends Haggai to admonish the Jews**
8. **The Jews heed the admonition and resume building the temple**
9. **God declares the blessing of His presence for their obedience**

Lessons

- We are chosen - and not based on our own merit
 - Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
- We are to serve the Lord and worship Him exclusively
 - Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
- We are to pass on a Godly heritage - AND REMEMBER HISTORY!!!
 - Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
- We are the temple of God (consider Haggai in this context)
 - Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: Ephesians In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
- The same promises of blessing and punishment apply now as they did then!!
 - Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
- The consequences of disobedience and neglecting the work of the Lord are:
 - Loss of the Lord's blessing and the consequent futility of labour
 - "... I did blow upon it"

- Rejection by the Lord
 - Revelation 2:4-5 (message to the church at Ephesus) "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."
- Correct responses to the Lord's admonition (v12,14)
 1.
 - **Obey**
 - 1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
 - **Fear**
 - Psalms 111:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."
 - **Do**
 - James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."
- The reward for obedience
 - "I am with you, saith the Lord."
 - the presence of the Lord is the blessing
 1.
 - Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."; Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

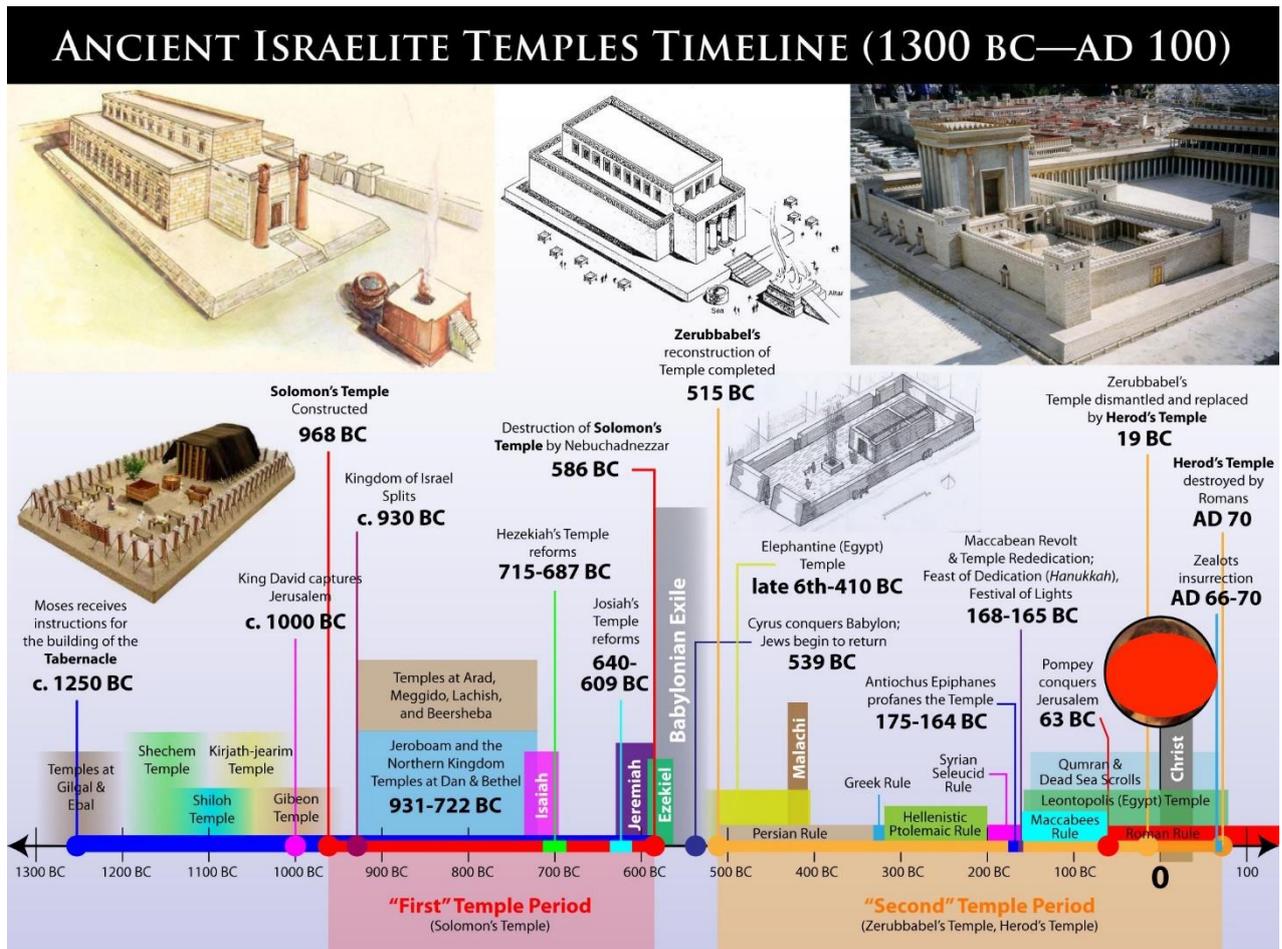


Underlying concept /thought for application: WE (individual Christians, the church) are the temple of God.

Read Haggai 2:1-9

- This is the second message of Haggai (note the paragraph markings in your Bible)

- Only about a month has passed since the people started building the temple
- Appears to be some exhaustion and discouragement among the people
- What reasons are there for discouragement?
 - Work is tough
 - We don't actually have the resources to build the temple as Solomon did
 - We will never make it as good - so maybe we should stop trying
 - We're not good enough. God will surely not be pleased with our service.
- Haggai 2:3 "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory and how do you see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?"



Lessons

A. Our service for God

Do you feel discouraged when you compare your service with someone else's?
 Do you feel discouraged when you do not see results of your service?

What is the value your service?

- *God places a different value on service*

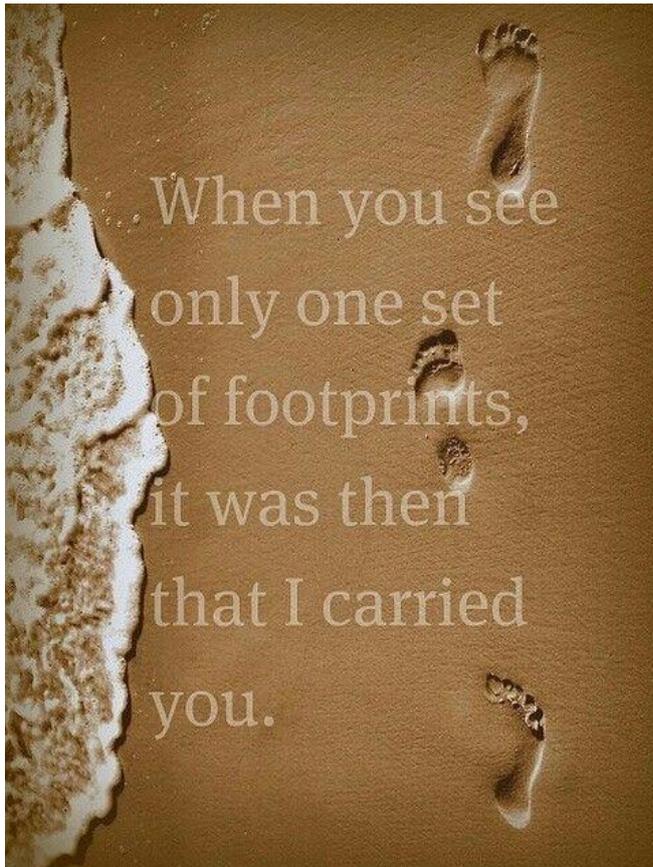
1Cor 12:4-11

- - - Different spiritual gifts
- God does not compare our output against each other
- God expects faithfulness and sincerity

- *God's work will not lack His provision* - Neither do we serve to enrich God (Haggai 2:8 "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.")

God encourages faithful servants

- I am with you (Haggai 2:4; 1:13) - as I promised!
- Be strong! (Haggai 2:4)
 - Joshua 1:9 "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."
- Work
 - John 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."
- Do not fear
 - what do we fear? (In our service)
 - God will reject our work
 - 1 Samuel 12:20 "And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart;"
 -
 - What God rejects is faithless, insincere service
 - God accepts the widow's mite
 - Man will criticize /reject it/ oppose it
 - Acts 18:9-10 "Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city."
 - Comparison with "reference work" - the great saints, fellow saints
 - why do we fear?
 - "... faith is not a natural response. In one way or another, what is feared determines behavior."
 - "Faith is being more aware of God, who is invisible to physical sight, than all the things that are so plainly in view."
 - Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
 - 2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.



Application:

No service is too small for the Lord. God judges us according to our faithfulness and sincerity - the outcome is determined by God. Therefore - Be strong, work, do not fear.

B. God's promise for those who serve

The Jews were discouraged that there was no way they would be able to restore the temple to its original glory (given the physical and material limitations)

What does God assure the Jews of?

- God assures them that He himself will fill the temple with His glory (v7 "... I will fill this house with (my) glory...")
- God reminds them that he is the source of material supply (v8)
- God assures them He will bring peace (v9)

How will God bring glory to His temple?

- "... The desire of all nations will come..."
 - This refers to the coming of Christ
- Did Christ bring peace?
 - Ephesians 2:14 "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;"

- John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
- Is there a contradiction then?
 - Luke 12:51 "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:"
- Peace comes when our wills are aligned with God's - otherwise there can be no peace
 - Isaiah 48:22 "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked."

Did Christ bring glory?

- Not apparently if we judge by sight as the Jews in the time of Christ did
- But what greater glory could there be than the presence of God (Christ) with man?
 - John 1:10 "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."
- Would the Jews (and the nations) have seen the glory of God if their spiritual eyes had been open to recognize that God was among them?
 - John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." For those who recognized the Messiah, the glory of the Son of God and His kingdom was apparent"

Did God's promise fail?

- Don't forget that we look forward to the 2nd coming of Christ
- This then, links to the other prophecies that describe the glorious return of Christ into His millennial kingdom
 - Revelation 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."
 - Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:"

C. Summary and Application

1. Our earthly eyes desire a visible sign of success
2. When we start comparing our service with others, we may feel discouraged. NO NEED TO! God looks at the heart.
3. Instead: Be strong, Work, Do not fear!
4. Sometimes we fail to see the glory of God and experience His peace - because we're expecting something different. And perhaps this is more a question of our faith.
5. Overall - we live in expectation that the Son of God will come again in all His glory to reign over all the earth - and then we will all, without fail, see His glory and experience His peace.