

Series: Messiah; Sermon: **The Desire of All Nations**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **December 10, 2017**

Bible text explored: Haggai 2:1–9

¹On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: ²“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, ³“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? ⁴But 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. ⁵“This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.”

⁶“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. ⁷I 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. ⁸‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty. ⁹‘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.”

[NIV]

Review and application:

1. On the night before Christmas, according to Clement Clarke Moore’s 19th century poem, what visions danced through the heads of “children snug in their beds”?
Since then, how have those simple desires been expanded and aggressively marketed as the driving focus of the Christmas season?
To what extent have we assimilated these materialistic desires, allowing them to obscure the genuine spiritual “desire of all nations”?
 2. The prophet Haggai had challenged the returning exiles to build a new temple on the site of Solomon’s destroyed temple. They had responded and laid its foundation. So what (v. 3) was behind the discouragement they now felt? (See also *Ezra 3:12*.)
What painful memories make you doubt your ability to forge ahead in the future?
 3. How does Haggai’s message (vv. 4-5) to Zerubbabel, the high priest, and the people compare to what David had told Solomon (in *1 Chron. 28:20*)?
What would remembering how God rescued them from Egypt tell them about his power?
How should their improbable release from exile in Babylon assure them that God’s Spirit was still available for continuing to rebuild?
What difficult rebuilding in your life can you trust God for?
- God’s message to Haggai that he would again intervene decisively in human affairs to usher in the true desire of all nations (vv. 6-7) supplies the lyrics Handel used in the “Messiah.”*
4. How did the destruction of Herod’s temple in AD 70 fulfill an aspect of this shaking?
How did Jesus himself fulfill the temple function? (See *John 2:17-22*.)
What shaking do we still anticipate with the return of Jesus Christ?
 5. Do we share (vv. 8-9) in “gospel-sized dreams” of new life in a new universe?
How can we become agents of holistic peace now?