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From the desk of the
Regional Overseer

James T. Smith



From Whence The Great Shaking?

We began our sojourn of considering the Great Shaking nearly a year ago with the introduction of our Regional Theme “*God’s Great Shaking Is Coming*” at our ministers’ convention. We have continued to explore various aspects of this theme with articles in our regional paper, and sermons at our region’s conventions.

We will now consider the immediate events that transpired in Israel’s history that led to the prophecy given in **Haggai 2:6-9** upon which our theme is based. What were the circumstances in Jerusalem preceding this prophecy that could move the Lord to threaten a great shaking?

The two prophets, **Haggai** and **Zechariah**, both prophesied during the rebuilding of God’s temple in Jerusalem following their Babylonian captivity as recorded in the book of Ezra.

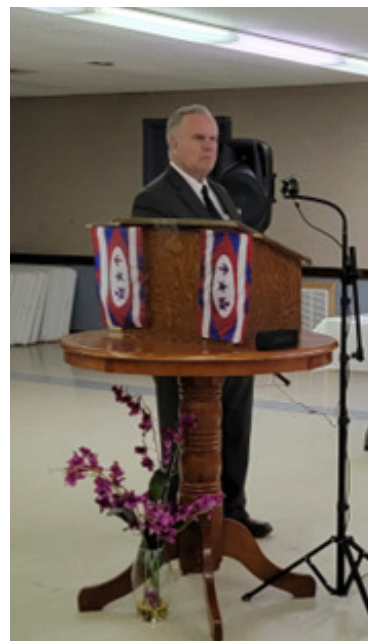
“*Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them*” (Ezra 5:1).

What was the circumstance of this rebuilding that necessitated the warnings and prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah? As recorded by Daniel, the kingdom of Babylon had been “*weighed in the balances, and art found wanting*” (Daniel 5:27). In that very same night that God’s judgment was pronounced upon Belshazzar (then ruler in Babylon), Cyrus of the Medes and Persians overthrew the Babylonians. **Our God says what He means, and means what He says!**

These events also corresponded with another portion of God’s great plan—the return of the children of Judah to Jerusalem following their seventy years of Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 25:8-12) with a mighty deliverance (Jeremiah 29:10-14).

“*For thus saith the LORD, That **after seventy years** be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. (11) For **I know the thoughts that I think toward you**, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (12) Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. (13) And **ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.** (14) And I will be found of you, saith the LORD; and **I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive**” (Jer. 29:10-14).*

The following two pages gives a pictorial review of our regional Convention



An Inspirational Mini Sermon

From the book, MUSE WITH ME by R. O. Covey

A “Moving” Sermon

An elderly Scotch woman was commending her pastor’s good sermon. ‘What was his text?’ someone asked.

“Oh, I don’t know the text or his words,” she replied. *“But I came home and took the false bottom out of my peck measure.”*

We may think that this was caused by moving and convicting preaching. But thank God for a listener who would be moved!

Well—maybe that was so long ago that the precious Scotch sister had not been affected by the “knowledge” that she could rebel against the Word and “get by” *on a big smile and shout.*



Bobby L. Musselman, 83, of Elkhart, IN went to his eternal reward on July 23, 2022. He was a member of The Church of God in Niles, Michigan and served as a Bishop in the Church. Our sympathy is hereby extended to his family and friends.

“I am very heavily burdened this morning about the work. The responsibilities are very heavy...I feel like raising my hands to heaven and crying out to God for help. Our new building is not yet complete and the financing of this is a heavy burden as well as all the other departments with the limited means at hand. O God, please help me this morning. Besides these responsibilities..and a thousand other cares I have the care of all the churches. I feel almost crushed under the load this morning, but I must roll it off on my Saviour who has promised to bear all our burdens for us. I’m sure God will help me as all of this work is His. I did not put myself in this position, I was forced into it, yet I accepted it willingly to do my best, and this I am doing. Lord, please help me this morning to bear up under the Load.”
(Diary entry of A. J. Tomlinson,, August 20, 1919.)

They were not simply to return to Judah and Jerusalem as their restored homeplace to live. They were given a purpose—another prophecy of Jeremiah to be fulfilled. Indeed, the book of Ezra opens with this purpose of God, and the book provides a record of its fulfillment: **“let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel.”**

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, (2) Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. (3) Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. (4) And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem” (Ezra 1:1-4).

The first three chapters of Ezra describe the initial effort of the Jewish exiles to fulfill this prophecy. In particular, **Ezra 3:1-7** describes the **rebuilding** of the altar, and **Ezra 3:8-13** describes the **rebuilding** of the **temple’s foundation**.

For a time, there was great excitement and exuberance among the people at how quickly the work had progressed: *“But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: (13) So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off”* (Ezra 3:12, 13).

As with any endeavor to fulfill the Lord’s purpose, it did not take long for their enemies—even their own kinsmen, the Samaritans—to set about to disrupt and prevent the restoration of the Temple and Jerusalem’s walls. Their kinsmen even succeeded in having the then current ruler, Artaxerxes to call for a **total cessation** of work on the House of God (a period of some 40 years), until another king (Darius) came to power. *“...So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia”* (Ezra 4:24).

The behavior (or lack thereof) by the returned Jews during this period is what led the Lord to speak through His prophets Haggai and Zechariah. I will allow Haggai to now express what the Lord saw regarding His returned people, and it wasn’t pretty.

“In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua

the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying, **(2) Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built. (3) Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, (4) Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? (5) Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. (6) Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. (7) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. (8) Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. (9) Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. (10) Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. (11) And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands”** (Haggai 1:1-11).

The Lord used the words He spoke through Haggai and Zachariah to stir His people (called “This people” by Haggai) who most certainly were not behaving as “His people.” They could not out-right say that the temple should not be rebuilt, so they made the excuse that “*The time is not come*” to rebuild God’s house.

Rather than directly respond to their issue of timing to build His house, God instead raised His own issue regarding their timing: **“Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?”**

How easy it is for someone to find excuses to put off until another time something they are not motivated to get done now. But there are consequences we must suffer for such neglect. Verse 9 above makes those consequences quite clear for the returned Jews. Likewise, the Lord has made matters perfectly clear how he feels about our failure to see His Church pressing on to that glorious state for which she is destined.

This brings us full circle to where this series **“God’s Great Shaking”** began with Haggai 2: The Lord calls for them to look at their current situation—not very pretty, is it? (Haggai 2:1-3).

“In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying, (2) Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, (3) Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?” (Haggai 2:1-3).



Sue Hutton

Regional WMB Coordinator

CARE SERVANT

Care About Reaching Everyone

Share the love of Jesus, let His love shine through, be a true reflection of the One who lives in you. You can make a difference if you open up your heart and share the love of Jesus, share the love.

There are souls in need of being rescued. There are souls that are hurting, living in fear, wandering in the darkness, and so on. Our lives must be the light in their search. The souls without Christ in their lives, need to see the light of Christ in our lives.

Is our vessel well lit? *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Matt. 5:14-16).

In reading these Scriptures we can see the meaning is “to guide by giving light.” *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”* (Psa. 119:105). Let us use the lamp and light to shine the way for lost souls.

“...Lord lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon” (Psa. 4:6). Ask God to lift up the light of His countenance upon us to guide the lost to safety.

Psalm 104:2 *“Who coverest thyself with light as a garment...”* (Psa. 104:2). Ask God to cover us with the light as a garment to cover the lost with the light.

“The entrance of thy word giveth light...” (Psa. 119:130). Pray for the entrance of His Word that giveth the true light to a dark world.

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined” (Isa. 9:2). Souls are in need of the light, they are lost *“in the land of the shadow of death.”* Let us pray for His great light to shine through us, as we walk in this land of the shadow of death.

*Reach out and touch a soul,
While they are passing by,
Will you lead them to Jesus?
Will you hear their cry?
This world is passing quickly
Many souls will die,
Reach out and touch a soul
While there is time!*

more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; **(15)** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Eph. 4:11-15).

What a great commission and honor we have to teach the Word of God. How awesome the design of God is—to reach all ages through the Sunday School!

Let us, The Church of God, seize every opportunity to teach the truth. Invite someone to Sunday School. I am excited anytime I have an opportunity to learn anything, but learning the Word of God under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, what else can compare!



George Atha REGIONAL BTI COORDINATOR

We are so blessed to be in The Church of God and to have a divine revelation of the Church and to know about the five bands (auxiliaries) and the BTI (Bible Training Institute). We know that everyone in the Church does not have a divine revelation. Let us read just one place in Scripture where we could see a great mystery.

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, **(27)** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. **(28)** So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. **(29)** For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: **(30)** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **(32)** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (Eph.5:26-32).

This “boost” is for the BTI. Now, we know that school will not give you a revelation of the Church, but BTI along with prayer and fasting will. We all need a divine revelation of the Church before we take the covenant. Some members, after taking the covenant might say, “I didn’t understand what I did.” So, BTI is the way to go so. Start planning today. May God bless each of you in BTI.

However, they have His commitment to be with them as they renew with fervent effort their work to complete His house! (Haggai 2:4-5) **“work: for I am with you.”**

“Yet now **be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: (5) According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not**” (Haggai 2:4-5).

As one final push “to get them over the line,” the Lord describes His Great Shaking that He would send, and its consequences. **In particular, He describes filling with His glory a house that then did NOT exist!** There was an altar (Ezra 3:1-7); there was a foundation (Ezra 3:8-13); but nothing more! Going further, He assures them that the glory of this latter house (that did not yet exist) would be greater than that of the former!

“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; **(7) And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. (8) The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. (9) The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts**” (Haggai 2:6-9).

So, we see the purpose and intent of God’s Great Shaking—to bring His House—the Jerusalem temple in the Old Testament (Haggai 2:6-9), the Church in the New Testament (Hebrews 12:18-29) to its final perfect completion in every aspect.



Juanita Atha Regional ABM Coordinator

God is so good. Our convention of July 15-17 is the best one I have been to in years. The Spirit moved in a powerful way. A few days before I could not work my right foot. It hurt so bad and I prayed and God came through for me. I was able to go to the convention.

Please pray for our members that God will move on them that they will have a need for Him. I need Him everyday and every night. We need the strays to come home also. Sometimes we have to wait until the Lord breaks them before they will come back home. We don’t want them to lose out. Everyone can be useful in the Church if they will let God have His way.

Help us pray for Judy Jones and family; Charles Martin and family and Jim Atha and family.



Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA Coordinator
No Turning Back

What a wonderful blessed time we had at Regional Convention! I am still feeding on the Spiritual food that God blessed us with.

Jesus had just told the multitude of His followers, that He is the Bread of Life that cometh down from Heaven and unless they (we) eat of His flesh and drink of His Blood, they (we) have no life in them (us) [paraphrased].

"Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?"

61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:60-69).

As God does His shaking, will we be attentive and listen to the Holy Ghost? He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Surely, we know, He will lead us into all Truth. Surely, we know, He is our Comforter and Guide. Surely, we know, He will not ever leave us, but will be with us even unto the end. Surely, we know, He has much to tell us and show us as He leads us on to perfection. Surely, He will open our eyes and give us clarity to bring us to the state of perfection where the Bride hath made herself ready for His Return! Praise the Lord!

Let us be like Peter and not turn back—for to whom shall we go? Thou, Son of God, Jesus our Lord and Savior, **Thou hast the Words of Eternal Life! Hang on! Hold on! NO TURNING BACK!**

Let's boost CPMA Membership and strive for 100% in 2023. One local church "paid up" during Regional Convention.



Sunday School Theme:
"Treasuring The Truth"
Annette Oglesbee
Regional Coordinator

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (14) How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:13, 14).

To preach is to proclaim or declare something of great importance. It is an invitation to come to know the Lord through the Word.

Teach means to instruct or communicate to another knowledge. To accustom or make familiar, it's the how to of the proclamation.

Jesus was a preacher and a teacher—two different methods of binging the truth and seeking to influence the listener. They are both of God's design to equip His people to the work of the ministry. Preaching the gospel and teaching to observe all things.

Jesus taught the disciples how to pray (Luke 11:1-13), how to be a servant (John 13:1-5), He taught them authority (Matt. 5:22, 28:32). All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables (Matt 13:34); [the prodical son, the one lost sheep, the widow's mite]. He said shocking things (Matt. 18:8-9). He answered questions with questions (Luke 10:36-37; Matt. 19:12; Luke 6:32). He spoke poetically (the Beatitudes, the golden rule, (Matt. 7-12); seek and ye shall find, ask and it shall be given. Jesus used repetition—what gets repeated gets remembered.

Jesus could not have influenced the listeners with the truth if He had not lived it. The way He spoke, acted, reacted and the way He treated people were all a part of His teaching. Those who treasure God's Word and have His anointing to teach, teach not only in word but in the lives they live.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

(19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matt. 28:18-20).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (14) That we henceforth be no