

## CONSIDER YOUR WAYS:

### How Jesus Transforms your DIY Temple into an Eternal Kingdom.

Pastor Chad Ellenburg

Text: Haggai 2:1-9

We can become distracted and discouraged in no time, but God comes in the fullness of time. Haggai 2:1-2

God speaks to us in the middle of our own rubble, and it is holy ground to Him. Haggai 2:3

Jesus prefers to use people who don't feel like they are up to the task to accomplish a monumental task.

Haggai 2:4-5

What we do now matters eternally and will be fully realized when Jesus returns.

Haggai 2:6-9

God desires to build a Kingdom in your heart that cannot be shaken.

Hebrews 12:22-24; 25a; 28-29

November 22, 2015



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## Food for Thought for the week of November 22, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion)

Please read Haggai 2:1-9

1. How did this week's message impact you? What challenged you? What questions did it raise? What confused you?

*Background:* In 955 B.C., Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem; nevertheless, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it in 586 B.C. and the Jews became captives in Babylon. Fifty thousand Jews returned to Jerusalem in 536 B.C. and began rebuilding the temple. Because of outside opposition and the people's apathy, the work stopped. Last week we learned that sixteen years later, God raised up Haggai to inspire and encourage the people to finish the work on the temple, which they had started.

2. Perhaps God has given you to an important assignment in life that appeared to be beyond your abilities. What was it? Before you finished, did you become apathetic and discouraged like the Jews called to rebuild the temple?

Discuss how God turned something, which in your mind was an impossibility, into something that had lasting value for His eternal Kingdom.

3. In Haggai 2:4a, we find two important words repeated several times. What are they? Has God ever said those two words to you? Explain.

4. In Haggai 2:4b-5, God gives the people a promise that encourages them to move ahead with finishing the temple. What does He tell them to do? What does He promise? Can you think of other promises from scripture that we can rely on when life gets tough and we are discouraged? (See John 14:18; II Corinthians 12:9; Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalms 94:14; Hebrews 13:5.)

5. In Haggai 2:7, we read that at a future time God will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea, the dry land, and all nations. You can find that verse referenced in Hebrews 12:26-29. According to verse 28, for what should we be grateful? What makes worship "acceptable" (vs. 28)?

6. Discussion: What events are currently shaking you and/or those around you?

**Reminder:** According to I Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20, as New Testament believers, we are temples of the Holy Spirit until Jesus returns. We belong to a Kingdom that cannot be shaken!

**Further reading:** Joshua 1:6; I Corinthians 16:13.; Ephesians 6:10; 1 Peter 2:1-11; Revelation 6:12