

#4 The Recovery of the Building of the House of God
through the Divine Encouragement
of the Prophets of God
Bird's-eye view 3/13-19

I In the rebuilding of the recovered temple as the house of God, both Joshua (representing the priesthood) and Zerubbabel (representing the kingship) became somewhat weak and discouraged; therefore, God used the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to speak for Him in order to strengthen, assist, and encourage Joshua and Zerubbabel.

II The central thought of Haggai's prophecy is that the building of the house of God, the temple of God, is related to the welfare of God's people today and to the coming of the millennial kingdom with its Messiah in the age of restoration:

Hag. 1:4 Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled-up houses, while this house lies waste? 8 Go up to the mountain and bring wood and build the house, and I will take pleasure in it and will be glorified, says Jehovah. **A**

In the Old Testament the house of Jehovah, or the temple, was first a type of Christ as the house of God individually, and then a type of the church, the Body, the enlarged Christ, as God's house corporately. **B**

Because the house of Jehovah is a type of the church, Haggai's prophecy refers to us, the New Testament believers, since we are the reality of the type. **C**

Haggai's speaking to Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the high priest was to strengthen and encourage them and the people for the rebuilding of the temple as God's house. **D**

The self-serving and God-neglecting returned captives were taking care of their houses but not Jehovah's house; the word run in verse 9 indicates that the people were busy caring for their own houses. **E**

Haggai's 1:6 indicates that if we neglect the church, we will have no real enjoyment or satisfaction; regarding the recovery of the building of God's house, we cannot be neutral; we must be absolute, either taking care of our houses first or taking care of the Lord's house first. **F**

For the recovery of the building of God's house, God's elect were stirred up in their spirit and came and did work in the house of Jehovah; in our response to the Lord's charge, we all should be occupied by the Lord Jesus in the work of preaching the gospel, feeding the new believers, and taking care of others for the building up of the Lord's house, the church as the Body of Christ. **G**

"I will shake all the nations, and the Desire of all the nations will come" (Hag. 2:7a): **1**

This refers to Christ, who is the Desire of all the nations; even though the nations do not know Christ, they still desire Christ; for the nations to desire such things as light, love, joy, and righteousness, the reality of which is Christ, means that, unconsciously, they desire Christ. **2**

people from their captivity in Babylon and the recovery of the building of God's house. **H** "I will fill this house with glory...The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former" (Hag. 2:7b, 9a): **1** The glory of God, the expression of God, is in the building of God, the house of Jehovah. Eph. 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen. **2** In a vision of God, Ezekiel saw the glory of Jehovah return to the house of Jehovah and fill the house; the glory of Jehovah returned to the house because the building of the house was completed; this indicates that in order for the God of glory to dwell in the church, the church must be built up to become the dwelling place of God. **3** Ezekiel saw that the river of water of life flowing forth out of the house of God was toward the east, the direction of God's glory; if we do not care for the glory of God, the flow in us will be limited. **4** In the church life the first consideration we should have is the Lord's glory; the decisions in the church life must be primarily according to the Lord's glory. **5** The glorification of God is the purpose of our service; the highest service that we can render to God is for us to glorify God by living the life of a God-man; this is so that we may express God in a corporate, built-up way and enter into the oneness in the divine glory. **I** Jehovah's making Zerubbabel as a signet ring indicates that Jehovah regarded him as His representative and that He loved him and trusted him; in this matter Zerubbabel is a type of Christ, and He is the One whom God loves and trusts; as such a person, Christ is qualified to take care of the building of God's house, the church. Matt. 16:18 ...and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 27 For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.

III The book of Zechariah reveals that the seven lamps of the lampstand are the seven Spirits of God, the sevenfold intensified Spirit, as the seven eyes of Jehovah, the seven eyes of the redeeming Lamb, and the seven eyes of the building stone for the full expression of the Triune God and the rebuilding of the house of God: Zech. 3:9 ...upon one stone are seven eyes. I will engrave its engraving, declares Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. 4:10 ...For these seven rejoice when they see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel; they are the eyes of Jehovah running to and fro on the whole earth. Rev. 5:6 And I saw...a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having...seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. **A**

The stone set before Joshua in Zechariah 3:9 typifies Christ as the stone for God's building; Jehovah's engraving of the stone indicates that when Christ

was dying on the cross, He was engraved, cut, by God; Jehovah's removing the iniquity of the land in one day indicates that the Christ on whom God has worked will remove the sin of the land of Israel in one day, the day of His crucifixion; through His death on the cross, Christ, the Lamb of God, took away the sin of the world: **1** The stone, Jehovah, and the Lamb are one; Christ is the redeeming Lamb and the building stone, and He is also Jehovah; Christ is the Lambstone—the Lamb for redemption and the stone for building. **2** In God's building Christ is the foundation stone to uphold the building, the cornerstone to join together the Gentile and Jewish members of His Body, and the topstone of grace to consummate everything in God's building. **3** The fact that Christ, the Lamb of God, is the building stone with seven eyes reveals that the seven eyes of Christ are for God's building. **4** Christ is the building stone with seven eyes, the seven Spirits, to transfuse Himself into us in order to transform us into precious materials for God's building; as the Lord looks at us, His seven eyes transfuse Himself into us. **B** For the completion of God's building, the sevenfold intensified Spirit is the eyes of Christ as the redeeming Lamb and the building stone to observe and search us and to infuse and transfuse us with Christ's essence, riches, and burden for God's building: [Prov. 20:27 The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, / Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being. Rev. 4:5 ...seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;](#) **3** The one who experiences the greatest amount of transformation is the one who is fully open to the Lord; by the operation of the sevenfold intensified Spirit within Christ's seeking believers, they are intensified to become the overcomers to build up the Body of Christ, which consummates the New Jerusalem. **C** In His resurrection Christ, as the last Adam, became the life-giving Spirit, who is also the sevenfold intensified Spirit; this Spirit is the Spirit of life; hence, the function of the seven Spirits is to impart the divine life into God's people for the building up of God's eternal habitation, the New Jerusalem. **D** The sevenfold intensified Spirit is the seven lamps of fire to burn, enlighten, expose, search, judge, purify, and refine us to produce the golden lampstands for the fulfillment of God's New Testament economy. **E** The two olive trees on the two sides of the lampstand signify Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor at the time, who were the two sons of oil, filled with the Spirit of Jehovah for the rebuilding of God's temple: [Zech. 4:3 And there are two olive trees beside it, one to the right of the bowl and one to the left. 12 ...are by the side of the two golden spouts, which empty the gold from themselves? 14 And he said, These are the two sons of oil, who stand by the Lord of the whole earth. 1](#) The

two sons of oil also typify the two witnesses, Moses and Elijah, in the last three and a half years of the present age, who will be witnesses of God in the great tribulation for the strengthening of God's peoples—the Israelites and the believers in Christ. **2** In principle, all the believers in Christ should be sons of fresh oil, those who are filled with the fresh, present, and consummated Spirit as the oil of gladness, to flow out the Spirit into the lampstand for its shining testimony, the testimony of Jesus: **C** As we apply this matter to our experience today, we see that the Spirit who flows out of us is God, and God is gold; thus, when we minister Christ to others, supplying them with oil, we are actually supplying them with God; God is flowing out from us into them. **E** We all should be olive trees, emptying God from ourselves into others; in this way oil will be provided to the needy by those who are olive trees out of which God is flowing.

神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

- 2023年の新しい召会生活の実行のため:**
 - 【食べる】**キリストを毎日食べて、キリストで構成され、キリストを表現し、キリストを代行する。
 - 【生む】**福音を伝えて、救われる人を生み出す。
 - 【養い・成就する】**新人を家庭集会で養い、バイタルグループで成就して、新しい奉仕者を生み出す。
 - 【建造する】**主日の集会は建造のためです。YouTubeからZoomへ、Zoomから集会所へ、建造のために集会所に集まる。
 - 【ブレンディングする】**近隣の諸召会と、できる限りブレンディングする。
- 3/21(火・祝)の祈り集会:**
祝日のため、**19:00-20:30**に時間変更。
- 3/21(火・祝)YP Welcome RGブレンディング:**
リジョイスガーデンに**9:10**に到着するように集まってください。昼食は、BBQです。各地区、誰でも参加していただけます。
【参加費(交通費500円込み)】
大人:1500円、大・中・高生:1000円、小学生:800円、幼児:600円、乳児:500円
※福音友人、新しくYPIに入る人は、500円です。
- 本山学生福音センター:**
3/19(主)から主日集会を開始します。青少年が、新しい本山学生福音センターで、霊を活用して、主を享受し、主を表現し、主を代行することができるように祈ってください。

CP1 In order to recover the building of the house of God, we must be absolute and take care of God's house first.

I The central thought of Haggai's prophecy is that the building of the house of God, the temple of God, is related to the welfare of God's people today and to the coming of the millennial kingdom with its Messiah in the age of restoration.

D The self-serving and God-neglecting returned captives were taking care of their houses but not Jehovah's house; the word run in verse 9 indicates that the people were busy caring for their own houses. **E** Haggai 1:6 indicates that if we neglect the church, we will have no real enjoyment or satisfaction; regarding the recovery of the building of God's house, we cannot be neutral; we must be absolute, either taking care of our houses first or taking care of the Lord's house first. [Haggai 1:4](#) Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled-up houses, while this house lies waste? [6](#) You have sown much, but you bring in little; you eat, but there is no satisfaction; you drink, but there is no being filled with drink; you dress yourselves, but there is no warmth in doing so; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put them into a bag with holes. [8](#) Go up to the mountain and bring wood and build the house, and I will take pleasure in it and will be glorified, says Jehovah. [9](#) You looked for much, and yet it amounted to little; and when you brought it home, I blew on it. Why? declares Jehovah of hosts. Because of My house that lies waste while you each run to your own house.

The word run in verse 9 indicates that the people were busy caring for their own houses. Today some saints are so busy caring for their own houses that they have no time to attend the meetings. As we consider this, we need to realize that in the entire universe there is no such thing as neutrality. We must be absolute. We must either take care of our houses first or take care of the Lord's house first. My point here is that we need to learn to save some time for the Lord's interests. How many sinners are waiting for our visitation? How many saints, especially younger ones, are waiting for our cherishing and nourishing? ...When the Lord comes to settle accounts with us, He will surely rebuke us. It has been difficult for us to get the increase, not mainly because of our environment but because of our excuses.

[Application to young people, college students, new ones](#)

Testimony 1 I entered into a church life when I was 25 years old. I received many supplies through small group meetings and was drawn to the Lord. The

company I worked for required everyone to take a promotion exam in the year they turned 26, and three people, male and female, from the same branch were scheduled to take the exam. I knew I needed to take a lot of time to study because it would be embarrassing if I was the only one to fail. But it was hard to study while working. At that time, the house where I attended small group meetings was far away, and after work, I drove about 1.5 hours there and back. When exams were approaching, I took a break from the meetings to concentrate on my studies. I felt so thirsty and weak that I prayed to the Lord. "Lord, there is less than a month left for the exam. The small group meeting is too far away and it is difficult for me to go there in time. Lord, forgive me. But I cannot go on like this. What should I do?" After that, I decided to continue attending the prayer meetings, even though attending the small group meetings were difficult. I also read the Life Study before my daily study. I had a very good supply. When I was full of studies, I was filled with peace, I was able to work with the Lord and focus on my studies. I attended prayer meetings every week and was able to forget my own needs and pray for the church with the brothers and sisters. After that, I was able to successfully pass the promotion examination. Thank the Lord! **Testimony 2** When I was working for a company, I had problems at home and at work, and there were times when I felt I had no place to rest. When I said, "Lord, I have no home where I can rest," the Lord said, "I have no home either." The Lord showed me God's desire during the 1994 Chronicles winter training that God, who created heaven and earth and all things, has no home, and He thirsts for the building of His house. I saw that vision and immediately consecrated myself. In my subsequent church life, I often gave priority to taking care of my own needs, but I thank God for enlightening, giving repentance, and bringing me back through the speaking in the Word, spiritual books, and meetings. **Prayer** Oh Lord Jesus, save me from giving priority to taking care of my own needs. I now have a vision that God wants me to build His house. I renew my consecration and learn to take time for the Lord's sovereignty. Instead of taking care of myself first, I will make the church life my number one priority. There are many people around us who need the gospel, and there are brothers and sisters who are unable to come to our meetings for one reason or another. We pray for them and carry out gospel and shepherding.

CP2 The locked room inside is enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and if unlocked, the Lord comes in and supplies life

III B For the completion of God's building, the sevenfold intensified Spirit is the eyes of Christ as the redeeming Lamb and the building stone to observe and search us and to infuse and transfuse us with Christ's essence, riches, and burden for God's building: **2**...in order to be transformed, we must fully open to the Lord in prayer to allow the lamp of the Lord with the seven lamps of fire to search all the chambers of our soul, shining on and enlightening our inward parts to supply them with life. Prov. 20:27 The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, searching all the innermost parts of the inner being. Rev. 4:5...There were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. **3**The one who experiences the greatest amount of transformation is the one who is fully open to the Lord; by the operation of the sevenfold intensified Spirit within Christ's seeking believers, they are intensified to become the overcomers to build up the Body of Christ, which consummates the New Jerusalem.

The inward parts of our soul may not be open. When we pray, we are afraid to open our emotion, for example, to the Lord. After we reach a certain point in our praying, we close up because we are unwilling to open some inner chamber to Him. We may faithfully attend all the meetings, read the Word, and spend time in prayer. Yet there is a door within that is locked...We tell the Lord that there is no way to open that door, even though we love Him and have paid a price in other ways...We confess our sins and receive the Lord. Then we have the Spirit of God within. To be transformed in our soul, however, is not easy. It needs the lamp of the Lord to search all the inner chambers. There are very few who have opened all their inner chambers to Him....Where this light shines, there the life supply goes.

Application to business persons, graduate students

Testimony I found it for the first time that I realized that there was a room inside locked in my heart when I was enlightened by the Lord. I also testify that the Lord's specific purpose for enlightening me is the building up of the church. From the age of 35, I worked for a US-based pharmaceutical company specializing in the oral care area. At that time, the company's performance in the Japanese and global markets was growing steadily. At such a time, the U.S. headquarters suddenly decided to sell the company. I was very disappointed because at the time I was in the midst of working on a project involving a long and time-consuming clinical trial for the

development of a groundbreaking new product in Japan. The atmosphere was gloomy, with various negative rumors among the employees. It also made it impossible to make all major decisions and to move projects forward quickly. At this time, I was thinking: "At a time of such rapid change, can't the Lord Jesus help me because even He can't do anything about it?"

I later realized that this was one locked and closed room in my heart. Then I read Isa.32:2, and 25:4, "And a man will be like a refuge from the wind / And a covering from the tempest, / Like streams of water in a dry place, / Like the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land." "For You have been a stronghold to the weak, / A stronghold to the needy in his distress, / A refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; / For the breath of those who terrify is like a tempest against a wall." The storm comes suddenly. When I read these divine words, I was enlightened and realized that my thought was wrong and I prayed, "Lord Jesus, I was in a terrible state of unbelief. Forgive me for the wicked sin of my unbelief. I have underestimated You, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and Universal Administrator. Because of my limited faith, I had fallen into the darkness of natural subjective concepts. You are the Lord the presidents of our new parent company. I did not see the move of God behind the move of human history in the business world. I was unable to cope with the changes in the environment and was moving right and left like a gentile. Cover me again with your precious blood. This blood not only forgives my sins, but it is also the blood of victory. I am enlightened by You, come out of Satan's deceitful schemes, and open to You. Let the Spirit come to me and supply me with life."

This radical change was to advance me to an even higher position in the company, to experience more of Christ, to train me to be one with the Lord, and ultimately to achieve building of the church. When I prayed and fellowshiped on this point, my spirit burned and everything became clear, and I could get answers to all my problems. I think I was able to receive mercy and correctly interpret the Lord's enlightenment and guidance because I was able to make the building of the Body of Christ the goal of all my experiences and blessings. I cannot use Christ's experience and blessings in business only for my own promotion. Because the purpose of God's work is not for my personal success. If I use the blessing for myself, I can testify that I could not receive mercy and be led, nor could I correctly interpret the leading in the Spirit.