

### **Haggai 2:1-9 – Study Leader’s Questions**

1. *Who does Haggai speak to in Haggai 2:2?*
2. *What discouraged them to the point of stopping the building (Haggai 2:3)?*
3. *What was the message for them as found in Haggai 2:4?*
4. *Why does the Bible stress the need for God’s people to be strong and courageous (Haggai 2:4)?*
5. *Is faith just about forgetting difficulties?*
6. *What does he i.e. God say that might encourage them (Haggai 2:5)?*
7. *How might the words ‘My Spirit is abiding in your midst’ make a big difference in their lives?*
8. *How does the Lord encourage these disappointed believers (Haggai 2:6-8)?*
9. *What importance does money have to God (Haggai 2:8)? Why does the Bible talk about ‘giving’ so often?*
10. *What does God say that can bring hope to their building project (Haggai 2:9)?*

## Haggai 2:1-9 – Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *Minor Prophets Volume II Habakkuk – Malachi* pp 185-187, 247-258 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1211 for detailed comment and additional information.

### 1. *Who does Haggai speak to in Haggai 2:2?*

He speaks to everyone because **“the word of the LORD”** Haggai 2:1, an expression which occurs 258 times in scripture, is equally for everyone regardless of individual standing, station or status, kings, priests, people, both in Israel and indeed for everyone on earth because everyone equally needs to hear it. That was certainly King Josiah's desire of whom 2 Kings 23:25 states **“And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him,”** Jeremiah's desire of whom God said **“I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations”** and Paul's desire, of whom God said **“he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel”** Acts 9:15.

**“And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD”** 2 Kings 23:2.

**“And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD”** 2 Chronicles 34:30.

**“O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD”** Jeremiah 22:29.

**“For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing”** 1 Thessalonians 1:8.

**“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you”** 2 Thessalonians 3:1.

**“that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified”** such that **“from you sounded out the word of the Lord”** such that in turn **“in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad”** is the ministry.

### 2. *What discouraged them to the point of stopping the building (Haggai 2:3)?*

Some were living in the past, especially the old-timers.

**“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”** Ezra 3:12.

Note Solomon's advice.

**“Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this”** Ecclesiastes 7:10.

Note God's admonition.

**“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert”** Isaiah 43:18-19.

Note Paul's exhortation.

**“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you*”** Philippians 3:13-15.

The lessons of the un-wisdom of living in past are:

- *It has a demoralising effect on others, Haggai 2:3.*
- *It will not alter the present, Ecclesiastes 7:10.*
- *It offends God, Isaiah 43:18.*
- *It obscures what God is doing now, Isaiah 43:19.*
- *It hinders the fulfilment of God's calling, Philippians 3:13-15.*

The only thing that should be retained from the past is **“all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD”** 2 Chronicles 34:30, or should be, according to Jeremiah 6:16, the problem being in the last part of the verse especially with the Lord's people today who have no time for the 1611 Authorized King James Holy Bible.

**“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”**

3. *What was the message for them as found in Haggai 2:4?*

It was to be strong **“in the strength of the Lord GOD”** Psalm 71:16 and, like **“the word of the LORD”** Haggai 2:1, it was the same for everyone, governor, high priest, people.

**“...now be strong...be strong...be strong...saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts”** Haggai 2:4.

The strength that God commanded for Haggai's listeners is, as Haggai 2:4 indicates, only possible through the presence of the Lord Himself, as Moses urged Israel on their entry to **“the land of promise”** Hebrews 11:9.

**“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee”** Deuteronomy 31:6.

The same exhortation is found undimmed and undiminished centuries later in Isaiah 41:10 for saints in both Testaments because **“the word of the Lord endureth for ever”** 1 Peter 1:25. Isaiah 41:10 should be memorised.

**“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”**

The Church Age saint is in particular exhorted according to 2 Timothy 2:1, which should also be memorised.

**“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”**

The Church Age saint's strength today is **“in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”**

Grace is rightly defined as God's Riches At Christ's Expense. See *Theological Studies No. 23 Law and Grace* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman p 5. Acts 20:32 and 1 Corinthians 8:1 suggest a further definition.

***"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."***

***"Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."***

The terms "*the word of his grace*" and "*charity*" are closely associated, suggesting that "*grace*" is God's willingness to award life-long charitable status to build up and strengthen any individual. "*Grace*" is certainly "*the gift of God*" Ephesians 2:8 and "*no more of works*" Romans 11:6.

It is "*the grace that is in Christ Jesus*" for today's believer that confers strength and/or the capacity to:

- *Witness with power for the Lord Jesus Christ.*

***"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all"*** Acts 4:33.

- *"Cleave unto the Lord...with purpose of heart."*

***"Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord"*** Acts 11:23.

- *Complete any God-given task the right way with the right attitude.*

***"And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled"*** Acts 14:26.

***"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work"*** 2 Corinthians 9:8.

***"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear"*** Hebrews 12:28.

- *Be "of a sound mind" 2 Timothy 1:7 by faith.*

***"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith"*** Romans 12:3.

- *Exercise spiritual gifts "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"* Ephesians 4:12.

***"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness"*** Romans 12:6-8.

***"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God"*** 1 Peter 4:10.

- Overcome bodily weakness in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.  
*“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me”* 2 Corinthians 12:9.
- Ensure *“Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you”* Titus 2:8.  
*“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man”* Colossians 4:6.
- Glorify the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*“That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ”* 2 Thessalonians 1:12.
- Stabilise and sustain hope, comfort and good works.  
*“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work”* 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.
- Pray with boldness.  
*“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* Hebrews 4:16.

The above attributes are all good incentives to trust in *“the grace that is in Christ Jesus”* 2 Timothy 2:1 in order to *“be strong...and work”* Haggai 2:4 *“in the strength of the Lord GOD”* Psalm 71:16.

4. *Why does the Bible stress the need for God’s people to be strong and courageous (Haggai 2:4)?*

It does so in order to combat the discouragers, the intimidators, the troublers and the weakeners.

*“Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there”* Deuteronomy 1:28.

*“Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building”* Ezra 4:4.

*“For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands”* Nehemiah 6:9.

Note that Nehemiah 6:9 has the solution to overcoming all four subversives listed above.

5. *Is faith just about forgetting difficulties?*

No. Faith is about remembering Him Who is the Overcomer of difficulties and the Strengtheners of him who must go through them.

*“And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses”* Nehemiah 4:14.

**“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”**  
Jeremiah 32:27.

**“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”** Philippians 4:13.

Our David studying Applied Linguistics at York University 2012-2013 is an example of the Lord overcoming difficulties through answered prayer, according to Jeremiah 32:27.

6. *What does he i.e. God say that might encourage them (Haggai 2:5)?*

Haggai 2:5 refers in the context of Haggai 2:4 to the Lord’s promise to Israel in Exodus 29:45-46 that He would steadfastly dwell among them.

**“And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.”**

In spite of the people’s sin with *“a molten calf”* Exodus 32:8, see Exodus 32:1-30, the prayer of Moses on behalf of his nation is effective, Exodus 32:31-32, as God promises in Exodus 32:33-34, even though with retribution for the people’s sin, Exodus 32:35. See Exodus 32:34 in particular with respect to Haggai 2:5 and the expression *“my spirit.”*

**“Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.”**

Note that angels are spirits.

**“For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both”** Acts 23:8. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1474.

**“And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire”** Hebrews 1:7. See Psalm 104:1-4.

God then promises in Exodus 33:14 that He Himself will go up with His people.

**“And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.”**

*“My presence”* is *“my spirit”* Haggai 2:5 according to Isaiah 63:14 and because *“God is a Spirit”* John 4:24.

**“As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.”**

In sum, **“According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you”** Haggai 2:5, God’s continuing presence with Israel:

- *Can dispel their fear i.e. “fear ye not”* Haggai 2:5.
- *Led them into “the land of Canaan”* Exodus 6:4.
- *Gave them rest* Isaiah 63:14.
- *Will enable Israel to be a witness to all nations “that God is with you”* Zechariah 8:23.

See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 240, 1497 and comments on Numbers 11:25, Romans 8:26 with respect to the use of small s for spirit in *“my spirit”* in that in the Old Testament, *“the Spirit of the LORD”* is not revealed as a Person and as a Member of the Godhead. This revelation to individuals does not come explicitly until John 14:26:

**“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”**

Until then i.e. throughout the Old Testament until the Lord’s revelation in John 14:26, even though the term **“the Holy Ghost”** occurs repeatedly in the New Testament e.g. Matthew 1:18, 1:20, 3:11, **“the Spirit of the LORD”** is perceived as an *influence or force from God*, as in the expression **“my spirit”** Genesis 6:3, Proverbs 1:23, Isaiah 30:1, Haggai 2:5 small s, or **“his spirit”** Job 26:13, 34:14, Isaiah 34:16, 48:16 small s, both expressions referring to God’s spirit.

The expression **“the Spirit of the LORD”** occurs 26 times in the Old Testament with S for Spirit capitalised 21 times, no doubt denoting Deity.

The 5 exceptions are Isaiah 11:2, 40:7, Ezekiel 37:1, Micah 2:7, 3:8. The explanations may be as follows.

**“The spirit of the LORD”** small s is associated with seven spirits remaining on the Lord Jesus Christ, compare John 1:32, in Isaiah 11:2, with breath in Isaiah 40:7 and Ezekiel 37:1, see Ezekiel 37:9 i.e. breath as distinct from speech as in 2 Samuel 23:2, with filling an individual in Micah 3:8 and most likely therefore in Micah 2:7, not simply coming upon him as in Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14 etc.

The NIV, NKJV capitalise the small s for **“spirit”** in Haggai 2:5 and obscure the above revelation.

Haggai 2:5 is also an encouragement to today’s believers because it points to Romans 8:11 for the Church Age, which is an encouragement especially with respect to the Lord’s Return.

**“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”**

7. How might the words ‘My Spirit is abiding in your midst’ make a big difference in their lives?

See bullet-pointed summary answers to *Question 6* with respect to Haggai 2:5, Zechariah 8:23. See also Isaiah 41:10 in *Question 3* and Nehemiah 4:14, Jeremiah 32:27 in *Question 5*.

The expression **“my spirit remaineth among you”** would, or should, be a great encouragement to the people according to other promises of God’s faithfulness to Israel:

**“For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy”** Psalm 132:13-16.

See *This is My rest forever* [www.hymnal.net/hymn.php/h/1338](http://www.hymnal.net/hymn.php/h/1338).

*This is My rest forever;  
Here will I dwell,  
For the Lord hath chosen Zion,  
He hath desired it for His habitation.*

*He will abundantly bless her provision:  
He will satisfy her poor with bread.  
He will clothe her priests with salvation,  
And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.*

Psalm 132:13-16 has present application for the Church Age saint.

**“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; In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit”** Ephesians 2:19-22.

8. How does the Lord encourage these disappointed believers (Haggai 2:6-8)?

He encourages them by what He says. Haggai 2:6 starts with ***“For thus saith the LORD of hosts.”***

See [www.timefortruth.co.uk/content/pages/documents/1353868294.pdf](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/content/pages/documents/1353868294.pdf) Haggai 1 Consider your Ways Question 1 with respect to the expression ***“the LORD of hosts”*** and remember 2 Kings 6:16-17 with respect to ***“the LORD of hosts.”***

**“And he answered, *Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 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.*”**

The Lord’s word is an encouragement because:

- *It is certain and all-powerful.*

**“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it”** Isaiah 55:11.

- *It is sustaining.*

**“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts”** Jeremiah 15:16.

- *It is preserved inviolate and purified to perfection as the AV1611.*

**“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever”** Psalm 12:6-7.

- *It “liveth and abideth for ever” and “endureth for ever”* 1 Peter 1:23, 25. See Question 3 with respect to 1 Peter 1:25.



- *It is the highest authority in existence i.e. the AV1611 is.*

***“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name”*** Psalm 138:2. It is ***“the royal law”*** James 2:8 [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/).

- *It not only foretells the future, it determines the future.*

***“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”*** Isaiah 46:9-10.

Note first that no contradiction exists with respect to Isaiah 43:18-19.

In Isaiah 43:18-19, God is saying ***“Behold, I will do a new thing”*** that supersedes ***“the former things”*** like that of which Hebrews 8:13 states ***“that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”***

In Isaiah 46:9-10 God is saying ***“I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done saying, My counsel shall stand.”*** God is declaring the un-brokenness of His word i.e. ***“the scripture cannot be broken”*** John 10:35 and ***“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations”*** Psalm 33:11.

Isaiah 43:18-19 and Isaiah 46:9-10 clearly have different emphases and do not contradict.

It that has to be remembered that the English of the 1611 Authorized Holy Bible is *Biblical English* such that its words are, for the most part, simple, broad and generic.

See *The King James Version Defended*, Chapter 8, *Why the King James Version Should be Retained* [wilderness-cry.net/bible\\_study/books/kjv-defended/chapter8.html](http://wilderness-cry.net/bible_study/books/kjv-defended/chapter8.html).

See “O Biblios” – *The Book* by this writer, p 29 or [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/) uploaded version p 22.

Many AV1611 words are also *magnified* words according to Psalm 138:2 as Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger notes in *Hazardous Materials* p 101.

*“The words of the King James Bible are often higher, ‘special’ words, not defiled or defined by worldly use...These include words such as ‘hell,’ ‘heaven,’ ‘preach,’ ‘grace,’ ‘gospel,’ ‘mercy,’ ‘lust,’ ‘carnal,’ ‘charity,’ ‘salvation,’ ‘sanctification,’ ‘heathen,’ ‘heresy,’ ‘superstition,’ ‘heretick,’ redemption,’ ‘righteousness,’ ‘salvation,’ ‘repent,’ ‘judgment,’ ‘covetousness,’ ‘ungodly,’ and ‘tribulation.’ One will be hard pressed to find these words in most new versions and Bible study tools.”*

These are the words of which Hebrews 4:12 states ***“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”***

The word ***“peace”*** in Haggai 2:9 is such a word. In Haggai 2:9 God says ***“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.”***

***“This latter house”*** and ***“this place”*** is ***“the house of God which is at Jerusalem”*** Ezra 5:2. That is where according to what God says in Haggai 2:9 ***“will I give peace”***

when ***“The Prince of Peace”*** Isaiah 9:6 returns at the Second Advent and His temple is established in Jerusalem according to Ezekiel 40-48, where according to Ezekiel 48:35 ***“the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.”*** It isn’t called that yet. Jerusalem is or is yet to be ***“spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified”*** Revelation 11:8.

However, Jerusalem will be cleansed at the Second Advent according to Isaiah 1:26 ***“afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city”*** because when the Lord Jesus Christ returns ***“and...shall suddenly come to his temple”*** Malachi 3:1 He does so ***“being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace”*** Hebrews 7:2, Jerusalem being the city of peace, so-called, the Lord Jesus Christ being typified by ***“Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God”*** Hebrews 7:1, who ***“made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually”*** Hebrews 7:3, the Lord Jesus Christ being ***“a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God”*** Hebrews 4:14. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1605, 1656.

Note however, the strict order of the Lord’s Kingship ***“King of righteousness, and after that...King of peace.”*** That is, *no peace without righteousness* according to Isaiah 32:17 and no ***“peace on earth”*** without ***“Glory to God in the highest”*** according to Luke 2:14.

***“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.”***

***“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”***

*That is the basic problem because peace is “the desire of all nations”* Haggai 2:7. That is how peace is defined in the context of Haggai 2:9, see above and what follows, *and the global aspiration is for “peace and safety”* 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

*That is the whole aim of the United Nations, as its official flag denotes. Note this extract from the source article, emphases in article.*

*The flag of the United Nations was adopted on October 20, 1947, and consists of the official emblem of the [United Nations](#) in white on a blue background...The [blue](#) that appears in the background of the insignia was chosen to be “the opposite of red, the war colour”...The [olive branches](#) are a [symbol for peace](#), and the world map represents all the people of the world...White and blue are the official colours of the [United Nations](#).*



Flag of the United Nations  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_the_United_Nations)

However, righteousness is *not* ***“the desire of all nations.”*** As indicated, peace is.

***“And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness”*** 1 John 5:19. That is why ***“that Wicked”*** 2Thessalonians 2:8, ***“that antichrist”*** 1 John 2:18 (!), ***“the beast”*** to whom ***“the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority”*** Revelation 13:2 ***“shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries”*** Daniel 11:21. See also Daniel 8:25, 11:24, Revelation 6:2 whereby ***“he went forth conquering, and to conquer”*** by peace, in that his bow has no arrows.

That is why the Lord must impose righteousness *by force* when He comes back. Only then will *global* peace be possible, when righteous is in effect worldwide *by force*.

Note again Haggai 2:7, 9 with respect to the statements **“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”** and **“and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

**“Wickedness,” “that wicked” and “the wicked” must be eliminated “to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness”** Daniel 9:24, such that **“In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth”** Psalm 72:7 noting that **“reconciliation”** is essential for peace in any context, Ephesians 2:14-17 in any context, see later. For now, see the following references:

**“Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?”** Job 38:12-13.

Job 38:12-13 is in part a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, **“the dayspring”** Who is **“the day star”** 2 Peter 1:19 and **“Jesus...the bright and morning star”** Revelation 22:16.

He will **“know his place”** because it is **“this place”** Haggai 2:9 wherein **“I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts”** Haggai 2:7 when He **“shall suddenly come to his temple”** Malachi 3:1, see above, at the Second Advent.

The Lord Jesus Christ will remove all iniquity and wickedness at the Second Advent, obliterate the United Nations Assembly and rule **“with a rod of iron”** i.e. *bringing in peace by means of righteousness imposed by force, as indicated above*. See the following references in Biblical order.

**“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel”** Psalm 2:8-9.

**“And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”** Micah 4:3.

**“Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy”** Zephaniah 3:8, with reference to the United Nations Assembly.

**“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear”** Matthew 13:41-43.

See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 766, 931, 1153, 1193, 1208, 1577, 1650, 1670, *The Mark of the Beast* by Dr Ruckman Chapters 2, 3 and Dr Ruckman's commentaries *The Book of Job* p 535, *The Book of Matthew* pp 242-243 and *The Book of Revelation* pp 134-142.

That is how ***“peace...the desire of all nations shall come”*** according to Haggai 2:7-9.

Noting the remarks above on Ezekiel 40-48, where according to Ezekiel 48:35 ***“the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there,”*** Ezekiel 40-48 is the fulfilment of the statement in Haggai 2:9 ***“The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts,”*** which will come to pass after the Second Advent.



United Nations General Assembly  
[www.un.org/en/ga/](http://www.un.org/en/ga/)

Application may be made with respect to peace *now* for the Church Age saint who is ***“the temple of the living God”*** 2 Corinthians 6:16 and glory for him *at the Lord's Return*. The following references, in Biblical order, explain why.

***“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly...Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory”*** 1 Corinthians 15:49, 51-54.

***“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh”*** Ephesians 2:13-17.

***“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”*** Colossians 3:4.

Observe that by ***“comparing spiritual things with spiritual”*** 1 Corinthians 2:13 in English and *not* regressing to anything ***“in the Hebrew...in the Greek”*** Revelation 9:11 (!):

- ***“Peace” is “the desire of all nations” Haggai 2:7, 9.***
- ***“Peace” is “the work of righteousness” Isaiah 32:17.***
- ***“Peace” is “reconciliation for iniquity” Daniel 9:24.***
- ***“Peace” is having been “made nigh by the blood of Christ” from having been “afar off” Ephesians 2:13.***
- ***“Peace” is having been reconciled “unto God...by the cross,” the Lord Jesus Christ “having slain the enmity thereby” Ephesians 2:16.***
- ***“Peace” is the Lord Himself for the saved, “For he is our peace” Ephesians 2:14.***

The Lord does of course in Haggai 2:8 assure His people that He has the resources for His work, as King David made clear centuries before in the building of ***“this house in her first glory”*** Haggai 2:3.

***“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee... O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own”*** 1 Chronicles 29:14, 16.

In principle, the same applies for the Church Age saint.

***“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work”*** 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Note finally for *Question 8* that Johann Sebastian Bach wrote a magnificent hymn entitled *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*.

See [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesu,\\_Joy\\_of\\_Man%27s\\_Desiring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesu,_Joy_of_Man%27s_Desiring).

However, Bach wrote from the perspective of a saved man who was a Protestant Bible believer. The reality for most men, who constitute the nations, is that the Lord Jesus Christ is *never* ***“the desire of all nations.”*** See remarks above with respect to the Lord Jesus Christ as ***“King of righteousness”*** Hebrews 7:2 which the nations do not desire and His rule ***“with a rod of iron”*** Psalm 2:9, which the nations won’t desire either in that ***“the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth”*** Revelation 20:8 finally rebel against it ***“and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them”*** Revelation 20:9, which the nations won’t desire in the least. Note also John 7:7, which says it all:

***“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.”***

9. *What importance does money have to God (Haggai 2:8)? Why does the Bible talk about ‘giving’ so often?*

In the context of Haggai 2:8, money was an essential resource for the work on ***“the house of the LORD.”*** See 1 Chronicles 29:1-17 and remarks on 1 Chronicles 29:14, 16 above that apply in principle to the Church Age saint via 2 Corinthians 9:8, see *Question 3*. See also 2 Kings 12:4-16, 2 Chronicles 24:8-14, summed up in 2 Kings 12:11.

***“And they gave the money, being told, into the hands of them that did the work, that had the oversight of the house of the LORD: and they laid it out to the carpenters and builders, that wrought upon the house of the LORD.”***

Other reasons, both good and evil, why money is important to God, are as follows.

- ***“Money answereth all things”*** Ecclesiastes 10:19 *i.e.* it enables the acquisition of much of ***“those things which are needful to the body”*** James 2:16 and ***“this world’s good”*** 1 John 3:17.
- ***“The labourer is worthy of his hire”*** Luke 10:7.
- ***“The love of money is the root of all evil”*** 1 Timothy 6:10.
- ***“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver”*** Matthew 26:14-15.

The scripture mainly refers to giving because *God* gave.

**“For God so loved the world, that *he gave his only begotten Son*, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”** John 3:16.

**“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”** 2 Corinthians 6:1.

**“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift”** 2 Corinthians 9:15.

10. What does God say that can bring hope to their building project (Haggai 2:9)?

See remarks under *Question 8* with respect to how **“The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former”** with respect to Ezekiel 40-48 and how **“in this place will I give peace”** Haggai 2:7.

The hope expressed in Haggai 2:9 would be like the revelation to Daniel in Daniel 10:14 **“for yet the vision is for many days.”** The hope of Haggai 2:9 has not been fulfilled yet entirely, 2500 years after Haggai prophesied it.

The lesson for the Church Age saint, therefore, even in these **“perilous times”** 2 Timothy 3:1, close to the Lord’s Return is as Paul set out in Acts 13:36-37.

**“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption. But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.”**

See remarks above in *Question 8* with respect to 1 Corinthians 15:49, 51-54 and note in closing 1 John 3:2 as an incentive for any saved individual seeking to serve **“his own generation by the will of God.”**

**“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

In the light of 2 Corinthians 6:16, therefore, see *Question 8*, for today’s believer, **“The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

*Additional Note on Question 8:*

Remarks on *Question 8* show how men desire peace but not the Lord Jesus Christ, John 7:7. Note remarks in the study entitled *I AM* [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/version-comparison.php](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/version-comparison.php) *Notes on John 8:12, 9:1-11* p 23 and the following extract:

**“That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world”** [John 1:9]. All men have enough light from Jesus Christ to know that they need life and light from Him...The tragedy is that though **“All men seek for thee”** Mark 1:37, **“ye will not come to me, that ye might have life”** John 5:40 because **“men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil”** John 3:19.

Note also John 12:42-43 **“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”**

Though men *individually* seek the Lord, Mark 1:37, or may do, *collectively* they don’t desire Him, as John 3:19, 7:7, 12:42-43 explain. As an advance on John 7:7, therefore, *for believers now*, note John 15:19 **“I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”**