

Haggai 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.—God extends the shaking from creation (v.6) to geopolitics—"all nations" (כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם/kol-hagoyim) will be agitated. This comprehensive scope emphasizes that no earthly power, empire, or kingdom lies beyond God's sovereign intervention. All human structures will be destabilized to make way for God's ultimate purpose.

"The desire of all nations shall come" (וָאֵלֶּיךָ יִשְׁמְדוּ כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם/uva'u chemdat kol-hagoyim) is notoriously difficult to translate. The Hebrew חֵמְדָּה (chemdat) can mean desire, precious thing, or treasure. Grammatically plural ("they shall come"), it may refer to desirable things/treasures of nations or, read messianically, to the One who is desired by all nations. Christian interpretation has traditionally seen this as a messianic prophecy—Christ is the ultimate treasure, the One for whom the nations long (even unknowingly).

"And I will fill this house with glory" (וּמִלֵּיתִי אֶת־הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה כְּבוֹד/umilleti et-habayit hazeh kavod)—God promises to fill the second temple with כְּבוֹד (kavod), the weighty, manifest presence that filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-35) and Solomon's temple (1 Kings 8:11). This seemed impossible for the modest structure they were building, yet God would fulfill it through the Messiah's presence. When Jesus taught in the temple courts, the glory of God Incarnate filled that house—far surpassing the cloud of Moses's or Solomon's era.

Verse 9 adds that this latter glory will exceed the former. How? Not through gold and cedar but through Christ Himself—"in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9). The Word became flesh and "tabernacled" among us, revealing glory beyond any building could contain (John 1:14). Ultimately, Revelation 21 shows the New Jerusalem needing no temple "for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple"—the ultimate fulfillment of God filling His dwelling place with glory.

Historical Context

Haggai's generation couldn't have fully grasped this prophecy's scope. They knew God promised greater glory for their temple, but how? The answer unfolded over centuries. Nations were shaken—Persia, Greece, Rome—until "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son" (Galatians 4:4). Jesus entered the second temple (expanded by Herod), taught there, cleansed it, and declared it His Father's house.

The shaking of nations prepared the way for gospel spread. Rome's roads and Pax Romana facilitated missionary travel. Greek language unified the Mediterranean world. Jewish diaspora communities provided initial gospel footholds. God orchestrated history so that when Christ came, the gospel could spread to all nations—the very nations being 'shaken' brought their 'treasures' (converts) into God's house, the church.

The prophecy continues fulfilling today. Every nation that seems stable will be shaken. Every ideology, empire, or system that opposes God will crumble. Meanwhile, people from every tribe, tongue, and nation are being gathered into God's true temple, the church, built on Christ the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19-22). The final fulfillment awaits Christ's return, when all knees will bow and the new creation will be filled with God's glory.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus Christ fulfill the role of 'the desire of all nations' as the One who satisfies humanity's deepest longings?
2. In what ways do you see nations and systems being 'shaken' today as God advances His kingdom purposes?
3. How does understanding believers as God's temple—filled with His Spirit's glory—transform your view of the church's significance compared to worldly power and institutions?

Interlinear Text

וְהִרְעֵשְׁתִּי	אֶת	כָּל	הַגּוֹיִם	וְבָאוּ	חֲמִידָת	כָּל	
And I will shake	H853	H3605	all nations	shall come	and the desire	H3605	
H7493			H1471	H935	H2532		
הַגּוֹיִם	וּמְלֵאתִי	אֶת	הַבַּיִת	הַזֶּה	כְּבֹד	אֲמַר	יְהוָה
all nations	and I will fill	H853	this house	H2088	with glory	saith	the LORD
H1471	H4390		H1004		H3519	H559	H3068
צְבָאוֹת:							
of hosts							
H6635							

Additional Cross-References

Malachi 3:1 (References Lord): Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

1 Kings 8:11 (Glory): So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

Isaiah 60:7 (Glory): All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

Genesis 49:10 (Parallel theme): The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Genesis 22:18 (Parallel theme): And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Luke 2:27 (Parallel theme): And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Luke 2:46 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.