



Sermon Notes from 15 December

Specialy Chosen (*Haggai 2:20-23*)

by Pastor GL Wong

The fourth and final message in the book of Haggai (Hag. 2:20-23) was directed to the governor of Judah – Zerubbabel. The prophecy given here is not limited to Zerubbabel's lifetime, but an indefinite future regarding the kingdom of God. We learn from this prophecy that the kingdom of God is the most blessed kingdom.

Why is the kingdom of God the most blessed kingdom?

1) God's kingdom is the only kingdom that is unshakable.

w21-22 – God assures Zerubbabel that though Judah was seen as small in the eyes of the superpowers of the world, he need not fear - all those kingdoms would fall one day. God also reveals that He is the sovereign and active agent behind the rise and fall of kingdoms, the deliverer of His people. Every earthly kingdom that sees the sun rise will see the sun set. It is inevitable. Only the unshakable kingdom of God will last forever (Dan. 2:44).

We all possess a kingdom of self and have a natural yearning to increase its territorial reach. A continuous focus on self might offer ticklish pleasure, but over time, it becomes torturous and leads to self-destruction. The only way out of this self-destructive kingdom of self is to abandon it for the superior kingdom: the kingdom of God. God invites us into His kingdom and calls us to repent and believe in the gospel - turn away from the shaky foundation of sinful self to stand on the firm foundation of Christ and believe in Him as the Saviour of mankind (Mark 1:14-15)! Keep in mind with gratitude this precious truth about the unshakable kingdom of God (Heb. 12:28)!

2) God's kingdom welcomes by grace those who are undeserving.

All kingdoms on earth, including the

kingdom of self, evaluate based on merit – all except the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is based on grace; it welcomes the undeserving and no performance or standard is required to be accepted.

v23 - God addresses Zerubbabel as 'my servant', associating him with kings from the line of David. God also promises to make Zerubbabel a signet ring, symbolizing him receiving royal authority to represent Him to the world. All this was given to Zerubbabel not out of his merit; but out of God's grace. Like Zerubbabel, we may find our merits insufficient, but we will always find God's grace sufficient. God declares His amazing grace through the reversal of His curse (Jer. 22:24-25) – Jesus on the cross, declaring all undeserving sinners righteous and welcoming them into the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is for all who humbly confess their sinfulness. Only the kingdom of God offers the blessing of righteousness to sinners (Rom. 4:7-8). Only those in this kingdom can be truly transformed by grace. Extend this radical grace we have received sacrificially to others (Matt. 16:24)!

3) God's kingdom leads all His people to glory.

King Jesus reigns by grace in the hearts of those who believe in Him (Matt. 6:9-10). The kingdom of God is already in our midst (Luke 17:20-21), and we pray and look forward for the future kingdom of glory to come (1 Cor. 6:9). Grace is glory begun, and glory is grace consummated. God puts His divine signature on those in His kingdom, sealed with the promise of the Holy Spirit, leading all of them to His glory (Eph. 1:13-14). Let all of us who are a part of God's kingdom take heart in the blessedness of this kingdom and pray for it to come!