



Come, Thou long-expected Jesus

Day 2: Stanza 2

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Scripture Reference

'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?'

– *Haggai 2:3*



As we talked about yesterday, Haggai 2 takes place as the Israelites are rebuilding the temple. However, this new temple will be far less extravagant than the temple King Solomon originally constructed. How disappointing that probably felt for the Israelites – rebuilding something to a lower standard. God himself essentially asks the Israelites “Which of you remember the first temple? Isn’t this one not as great?”

What are you building in your life right now that seems like less than what you imagined? What part of your life are you wishing He would bless more?

While God may have reminded the Israelites of the former, glorious temple, He didn’t leave them in that thought. Instead, He encouraged them telling them to “Be strong.” Even in reminding them of the former temple, God is encouraging the builders that He has always been faithful. They can trust in Him. Sometimes circumstances in life leave us feeling dejected, like a failure, like there should have been something more. But in those circumstances God says to you “Be strong.” He is the God who was (Revelations 1:8). You can trust in Him.

Think on your previous situation and answer. Where can you see God’s hand in the process, even in the slightest? Where can you see Him reminding you to “Be strong.”



2 Chronicles 7:1-4 details out the dedication of the glorious temple Solomon built for God. In that passage, we see “the glory of the Lord filled it” and all the people “knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord.” When the people saw the glory of the Lord fill the temple, they were overcome with awe for their Lord – so much so that they fell prostrate and worshiped.

Have you ever been filled with such awe for your Lord that you fell prostrate and worshiped at his feet? Recall that experience with Jesus now. If you haven't yet had that experience, take a moment to look back on all the miracles God has performed in your life. In totality, do those bring you to a place of awe? Worship and thank Him now.

We've spent the past two days looking back on the faithfulness of God, just as our song and Haggai 2 remind us to do. He is so good, and His faithful love endures forever. Your perfect God has been the God “who was” in all your life's circumstances (Revelations 1:8). Maybe you feel as if all your good times are behind you. Maybe you feel as if the future looks a bit bleak. Maybe you can't see how life could get any better. No matter your circumstances right now, God has been faithful. He has performed miracles in your life. Take time to remember those.

List at least ten blessings from the Lord during this past year. Yes – at least 10! You can do it! If you feel like listing more, go for it! Praise your Lord as you reflect on His blessings in the past year.
