

JESUS: THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS

Haggai 2:7 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 has promised to shake all nations. To shake is the opposite of being rooted and stable. As long as the nations of this world feel stable and safe, they will not seek Jesus who is the desire of all nations. “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (I Thess 5:3). I cannot imagine the horror of living in a country that is prone to earthquakes. What is it like to know that the earth under your feet may suddenly shake violently and swallow you up. Buildings can come crashing down and you may not survive the night. When God created dry ground, he expected humans to trust in him: unless God is our sure foundation, the earth beneath us has no contract or pact with us. “And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:10). How do we expect to walk on dry ground as the children of Israel did if we do not love Jesus who is the desire of all nations?

Exodus 14:29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

God had shaken Egypt and the mighty Pharaoh, but his people walked safely on dry ground. To acquaint oneself with Jesus and obey his commandments is to walk on dry land in the midst of the sea. We who believe in one God, baptism in Jesus name and Spirit-filled people are walking on this dry land in the midst of the sea because our foundation is the prophets and apostles with Jesus himself being our cornerstone. “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20). Let us read the words of the Lord carefully: “And I will shake all nations...” (Haggai 2:7). Not one country, however powerful, is exempt. God will shake all nations. Who then can be so foolish as to trust in the military or economic might of his or her country? When God shook Sodom and Gomorrah, not one inhabitant survived, except three souls because they were related to Abraham. May we be related to Abraham!

Deut 9:27 Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin:

Isaiah 51:1 Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Isaiah 51:2 Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

Next, God declares in Haggai 2:7 that after he shakes all nations, *the desire of all nations will come*. What happens after a severe earthquake flattens buildings, tears up roads and infrastructure and people are trapped under tons of concrete? Help must arrive urgently; the dying and injured desire to see rescue teams. When the entire planet lies in ruins, and there is no help on planet earth, help and rescue will come from heaven. The day will come when the nations of this earth can no longer solve their problems – planet earth will run out of solutions. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war” (Revelation 19:11). There is a horse in heaven which no one has ever ridden. That horse is waiting for one particular day and one particular purpose. That horse signals the end of war, hatred, rebellion and lies. Jesus is the desire of all nations, and that horse is the most desired animal among all nations. Next time you see a horse, smile because a horse will bring our Jesus back to this earth. That horse is neighing with desire to bring our Lord Jesus back and we should match the impatience of this horse to see our Lord return.

Hab 2:2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Hab 2:3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

I am always eager to learn about countries that I know very little about. So recently, I decided to understand a bit more about Bolivia. To make a long story short, the same President Evo Morales, whom the majority indigenous people of Bolivia voted into power in 2006 with 54% of the vote and great expectations, was rejected when he wanted to run for a fourth term as President in 2019. He presented himself as the champion of indigenous people (coca farmers) and an environmentalist but disappointed his people when, among others, in 2011 the government contracted a Brazilian company to build a highway through the Isiboro Sécore National Park, aiming to connect Beni to Cochabamba and facilitate hydrocarbons exploration. The people arranged a march to demonstrate but Morales responded with brutal military suppression. Morales, the champion of the indigenous majority Indian population, anti-imperialist and environmentalist, began to look very much like the former President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, a US lackey who has been accused of severe human rights violations. I know there is a US election looming and once again many Christians are tempted to believe the answer lies in choosing the right President. How many more elections will it be

before one sees the obvious: it is a curse to trust in humans, according to God. The same goes for all countries – Jesus will shake all nations.

Jer 17:5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

Jer 17:6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

Jer 17:7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

Jer 17:8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river; and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

The heath, including the Arar plant, appears lush but its fruit, upon touch, bursts, emitting poisonous dust capable of causing blindness, highlighting the danger of deceptive appearances and the need for discernment in assessing one's trust and fruitfulness. The heath, particularly the Arar plant, was historically used by Bedouins who dipped their arrows in its poisonous sap before hunting lions, hyenas, or wolves, underscoring its lethal properties and deceptive allure, akin to false prophets warned against in biblical teachings. In other words, trust in humans, whether they are in the world of politics, military, business etc. is like being deceived by the heath or Arar plant – it leads to blindness.

Finally, God states that after he has shaken all nations, and the desire of all nations comes, then he will fill this house with glory in Haggai 2:7. Which house is he referring to? It could not have been the Temple built in the days of Zerubbabel because that Temple could not even compare to the one Solomon built. No, God is speaking about the Temple of our bodies. We are the Temple that Jesus has always desired to live in – not buildings of mortar and stone. “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:33,34). How else can the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord like the seas fill the earth except God live in every one of us? “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). That day is coming soon, saints of Jesus! Let us prepare to receive the desire of all nations!