

(1). "The Splendour of Life."

Introd:-(1). How many Christmas texts do you know? How many in N.T.? Matthew 1:18-25....2:1-15. Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20.....John 1:1, 14....Gal. 4:4... Rom. 9:5...I Tim. 3:16...Heb. 1:6...10:5. Rev. 12:5. What about O.T.? Gen. 3:15...Isa. 7:14...9:6... Psalm 2:7, 12...Prov. 30:4. Haggai 2:7..... All great, wonderful records of most marvellous birth of all. God the Son coming to dwell in form of baby boy. Hundreds of other prophecies concerning the life on earth of this prophesied One..all fulfilled to very letter.

I. Let's give our attention to last one mentioned.

(a). And take time get background story well in mind. About 1,000 before X Solomon built his great Temple at Jerusalem..on that sacred rock. About 400 yrs later it was destroyed by Babylonian armies..allowed of God to overrun land bec. of Israel's apostasy..evil doings. After 70 yrs in captivity..Jews returned under leadership of tremendous men..Zerubbabel, Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah.. great heroes of Israel...and began to rebuild the Temple. (b). Hindered and discouraged by surrounding nations..until work stopped completely...AND THEN CAME HAGGAI AND ZECHARI..Haggai with this word..Hag. 1:4. "Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?" Let me paraphrase.."Is it right for you to take good care of own affairs, comfort, ease, pleasures..and let the work of God go to ruin?" Is it right for those who call themselves the people of God to live a life for self..self-gain..self-glory...instead of living for God? How would you have answered Haggai? Yes or No?

II. Well, the new Temple was finally built..completed.

(a). What like? Nowhere near as magnificent as Solomon's Temple. Lacked resources..man-power..skill..so that: Hag. 2:3."Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory: and how do ye see it now?is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?" Poor, rebuilt temple! (b). But read on a bit..vs.9 "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." How could that be? THE ANSWER IS IN THAT CHRISTMAS TEXT ..VS. 7. "The desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory." AND IN DUE TIME JESUS, GOD THE SON CAME TO THAT TEMPLE! There he spoke peace to that woman taken in adultery,..rebuked commercializers with whip of cords..HE CAME..AND GLORIFIED PLACE FOREVERMORE.

III. Now in a sense this is a parable of human experience.

(a). Where is God's Temple today? RIGHT HERE IN RED-DEER!

I mean it! See:- I Cor. 6:19-20. Serious words. The body of a X'n..flesh, blood, bones..is God's temple..wherein He dwells...bec. of new birth When our Lord lived on earth He called His body a temple..John 2:19-21. Now that body has gone to heaven..literally..and God, thru. His Spirit..seeks to live IN and through our bodies..walk by our feet..look thru. our eyes..work thru. our hands..speak thru. our lips.

(b). Now think a long way back. First human body was given to Adam. What like? GLORIOUS! No half-Ape..beetle-browed beast! Fresh from hand of God..perfect..splendid. 1st temple Your body..mine is like that 2nd temple.. "in comparison of it as nothing". Marred by long ages of human sinning. In danger of utter destruction by the one who has the power of death..and power to cast it into hell.

(c). BUT JESUS CAME..~~KILL~~ near 20 centuries ago..to Bethleher ..and then to Calvary..to redeem us..buy us back to God..and FILL US WITH HIMSELF..HIS NATURE..HIS LOVE..AND HIS GLORY. And that word means "SPLENDOUR..HONOUR."

God can make a man, women to be glorious..to know the "SPLENDOUR OF LIFE"..to make of the lumber of our life a temple instead of a tavern!

Conclus:- 1. Now let me repeat Haggai's question..for per. now we are better able to answer it..."Is it time for you, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?" Is it time for you to use your life for mere selfish ends, for things that perish at end of life, or live for the Saviour who loved you and gave Himself for you..for that which will count for all eternity?" Yes..No?

2. Young people...I trust you know the Saviour as your own. Bought with a price..not your own. I invite you to the Splendour of Life..to a life given without reservation to God...like this..Rom,12:1-2. I invite you to set your course for study and training at Berean Bible College. This is a family school..where you live with other Y.P. as your brothers and sisters in X..where we love you as spir. fathers and mothers..and do all we can to help you find the Splendour of Life...found as Jesu lives His life unhindered through you. God grant it!

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Red Deer - Bethany Bah. YP Xmas Bangud - Dec. 23/70