

His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (9) Desire of all Nations

What is perhaps one of the least known titles of the Lord Jesus is found in the prophecy of Haggai. Haggai was the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message (Hag. 1:13). He prophesied to the restored remnant of Israel, following the seventy years of captivity in Babylon.

The Lord's message to His people through Haggai was a challenge to question their priorities. They focused on their own personal homes and neglected the house of God. The prophet urged them to consider their ways and exhorted them to obedience and holiness. He called them to action in rebuilding the temple and promised blessing for their obedience.

Haggai describes the events that will take place prior to the return of the Lord Jesus in glory. God's universal power and might will be displayed in a shaking of the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. The Lord makes the statement, *"I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory"* (Hagg. 2:6-7). The expression, *"The Desire of all Nations"*, is another divine title of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some have suggested that the phrase, *"the desire of all nations"*, refers to what all nations desire, in terms of peace and prosperity and of righteousness and equity. But all of these things have been fulfilled in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and will be seen and experienced in all their fulness, when He comes to rule the nations.

Isaiah prophesied concerning the reign of Christ, *"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"* (Isa. 2:4). The prophet Micah used very similar words in his description of the coming kingdom of Christ (Mic. 4:3).

Isaiah also prophesied regarding the features of the future reign of the Lord Jesus, *"And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them"* (Isa. 11:5-6).

The Lord Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all Scriptural prophecy and promises. He is the Redeemer who has brought the blessing of forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God for all mankind, through His sinless sacrifice and the shedding of His own precious blood (Rom. 5:9-10; Eph. 1:7; 1st Jn. 2:2). He has brought eternal life (Jn. 3:16). Under His Sovereign reign and rule the nations of the world will experience blessing and peace and prosperity. His rule will be universal and will last forever (Isa. 9:7; Ps. 72:7-8; Zech. 9:10).

The Lord promised that when the *"Desire of all Nations"* comes, the house of the Lord will be filled with glory. The Lord asked the question, *"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?"* (Hag. 2:3).

David had said, prior to the building of the temple, *"the house that is to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries"* (1st Chron. 22:5). The Scriptures record that when the temple was complete, the priests could not stand to minister, because the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord (1st Kings 8:11; 2nd Chron. 5:14; 7:1-2).

The same is said concerning Moses when the tabernacle was completed, *"Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle"* (Ex. 40:35).

But the people of Israel, even the priests of Israel had forsaken the Lord and the Lord's house. When Eli's daughter in law, the wife of Phinehas, was about to give birth, she heard that her husband had been killed and that the ark of the Lord had been taken. She named her child that was born, *"Ichabod"*, saying, *"the glory is departed from Israel"* (1st Sam. 4:19-22).

The prophet Zechariah prophesied of a future day, when the Lord Jesus Christ, referred to as, “*the Branch*”, will grow up out of His place and build the temple of the Lord. He wrote, “*even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both*” (Zech. 6:13). The expression, “*them both*”, may refer to the offices of King and Priest, combined gloriously and perfectly in the person of the Lord Jesus.

What a day that will be, when the Lord Jesus shall come in all the splendour and glory of His majestic person. He promised that He will come again in the glory of His Father (Matt. 16:27). He spoke of coming in power and great glory (Matt. 24:30; Mk. 13:26; Luke 21:27). The apostle Paul wrote concerning the appearing of the Lord Jesus in glory, “*when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe*” (2nd Thess. 1:10).

Isaiah prophesied that all nations would come and see the salvation of God (Isa. 52:10) and the glory of God (Isa. 66:18). Israel will for sake the idols they once worshipped and be restored to the Lord. The prophet Hosea wrote, “*Ephraim shall say, what have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him and observed him*” (Hos. 14:8).

Before He comes in glory to reign over and rule the nations of the world, He will come to the air and rapture home to be with Himself every soul that has ever trusted Him for salvation. He is the “*Desire of all Nations*”, and the desire of our redeemed hearts. Unto us who believe, He is precious (1st Pet. 2:7). “*His mouth is most sweet; yea, he is altogether lovely*” (S.O.S. 5:16).

*Christ, desire of all nations,
Soon, in glory shall appear;
Object of our expectations,
Ruler thou, of every sphere.*

*Sin and death have been defeated
Through the triumph of His cross,
Now in majesty is seated
Never more to suffer loss*

*Sacred Scriptures forward pointing,
Destined heir, by God's decree;
Sovereign King by God's anointing,
He shall reign eternally.*

*Through His rule abundant blessing;
All tumult of war shall cease
Every heart and tongue confessing,
He is Lord, the Prince of Peace.*

*Let all nations bow before Him,
Assemble now, ye heavenly choir;
Sing His praises and adore Him,
He who is our heart's desire.*

Bernie Payne