

Hope for the Discouraged - Haggai 2:1-9

22nd August 2021

Introduction

> When was the last time you were discouraged / disappointed?
What caused it?

Today's passage: Learn how we can cope with d_____ and have h_____ and confidence.

When facing discouragement... (verses 1-3)

> The situation:

17th October 520BC. Restarted the work of rebuilding the temple.

Discouragement. Ezra 3:10-12. Thinking "What's the point?"

> What about us?

> Different ways of responding: Giving t_____; remembering what we d_____.

Take courage and work... (verse 4)

> "Be strong" / "take c_____"

> Why? They need h_____.

> "Stop listening to ourselves, and start listening to God and his word of promise."

... *by looking back at God's covenant (verse 5)*

> God says "I am with y____". Reasons we might doubt that...

> God helps them look b_____ - to the Exodus. "I made a covenant with you – that I would be your God, and you my p_____."
(See Exodus 6:7)

> For us today – look back to the d_____ and resurrection of Jesus.

... *and looking forward to what God's promised (verses 6-9)*

> v6 – God coming in p_____

> How it looks as though the promise will be fulfilled... Problem – The second temple was destroyed.

> Several fulfilments:

1, First coming of J_____ Christ – the true temple (John 2:19-22)

2, The n_____ gathering to Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 2:2)

Examples of the nations coming today...

3, Second c_____ of Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:22-27)

What it will be like...

So what?

> How do we deal with discouragement?

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

To think / pray about

> Do you get discouraged? What by?

> How can you look back, look around and look forward to find hope and encouragement?

> Pray about it.

Taking it further

Facing midlife: Spiritual growth in a time of change – Tony Horsfall