



Empowering People to Change the World

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**December 1- Desire of All Nations**

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- Excited about our special giving to Estevan and Second Chance
- Excited about sponsorship of orphans with Vision Trust

### **This is the First Sunday of Advent:**

- Observed in most churches around the world.
- It literally means “arrival” or “appearance.”
- It begins on the first of four Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve and the birth of Christ.
- It also has the double meaning of the Second Coming of Christ.
- It is a time of “desire” or “expectation” of the coming of Christ, remembering the first time He came, but also to remind us of the anticipation of the Second Coming.

### **Haggai 2:5-7**

***<sup>5</sup> ‘According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!’***

***<sup>6</sup> “For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; <sup>7</sup> and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the Lord of hosts.***

- Haggai only prophesied for 4 months but he was used of God to prophecy to the returning Israelites to their homeland in 536BC to rebuild the Temple of the Lord.
- They had started well, building the altar and offering sacrifices, then laying the foundation, but construction had ceased. God used Haggai and Zechariah to rally the people and finish the task.
- But what is most interesting is our passage is where God explains that what He desires to do in the new Temple will one day bring

International Attention! A New Temple will be built that all the nations will come to worship.

- That all the nations desire the Presence of God and the Power of God.
- That all peoples of the earth are searching for God's Peace and that the Prince of Peace is coming.
- God will shake the nations, shake the earth; we will see signs in the heavens and upon the earth on the great and terrible Day of the Lord.
- But God is building a New kind of Temple in the last days.

### **Vs 5**

***<sup>5</sup> 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!'***

- The same Spirit of God that launched Israel into existence, is with you and He will be with you in a powerful way.
- This same Spirit is coming through the "desire of the nations," this longing for God's Presence, Power and Peace.
- Even for us today, the Spirit of God is coming through a Savior who will be born.
- Three Temples mentioned here:
  - 1) the New physical Temple built by Zerubbabel,
  - 2) in the last days God will rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, and
  - 3) We are now the rebuilt Temple of God, filled with the Spirit of God.
  - We are a Royal Priesthood, a holy Nation, filled with God's Spirit.
- For each of us, we desire many things...but truly our desire is for the Spirit of God to move through One who loves us, who desires us, who comes to strengthen us.

## **Vs. 6**

**<sup>6</sup> “For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land;”**

- God always shakes the nations when He is about to move in power. He shakes the status quo, the natural elements.
- In His First coming, at that First Christmas, God uses a star to shake the heavens.
- **Numbers 24:17** prophecies: **“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob”**

**Matthew 2:1-2** *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”*

- The Magi, Eastern Astrologers, named him “King of the Jews. We have come to worship him.” This is an audacious statement!!
  - These were wealthy priests, “magos” is taken from the Mede language and means “spiritual advisors.”
  - Hundreds of years before, they had been appointed by Darius over state religion in Persia (modern day Iran) and served as official advisors to the king.
- A priestly caste among the followers of Zoroaster; they were thus in principle worshippers of one only God, and rejecters of polytheism and idolatry. The simple creed and high morality, which Zoroastrianism in its purest form professed, were well adapted to prepare its faithful disciples to receive a further revelation, and we may reasonably believe that the wise men who had been thus guided to worship the new-born king of the Jews had been faithful to the light afforded to them, for **“But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” (Acts 10:35).**

- By the time of Christ, Persia had been conquered and was being governed by successors to Alexander the Great. But, it is possible that these “Magos” came from the Mesopotamian region of Seleucia. It has been postulated that these men were the descendants of those who had been trained by Daniel.

Colin Nicholl, in his groundbreaking book, The Great Christ Comet states:

“We must now ask how the Magi concluded that the heavenly phenomena pointed to the Messiah, the King of the Jews. Anyone living in Babylon, with its significant population of Jews, would have been familiar with the basic tenets of Judaism and probably would have known that the Jewish people expected a great future leader called the Messiah to come and ultimately reign over the world. Suetonius, Vespasian 4.5, confirms this: “An ancient superstition had spread throughout the east that out of Judea would come the rulers of the world.”

(Nicholl, Colin R.. The Great Christ Comet: Revealing the True Star of Bethlehem (Kindle Locations 4689-4699). Crossway. Kindle Edition.)

- Interesting that even as the “heavens and earth are shaken” in the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus describes Himself as “I am the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”
- Those days leading up to the Second Coming of Christ will be a shaking of the heavens and the earth in **Matthew 24:29**

***<sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.***

**Vs. 7**

***and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts.***

- Jesus has always been and continues to be the Desire of the Nations!

### **Luke 2:1-14**

- Vs. 10-11 ***“don’t be afraid, I bring you good tidings of great joy for ALL PEOPLE”***
- Vs. 12 The Desire of all the Nations has come!!
- The Desire of all the Nations will come again!!
- And God will recreate the heavens and the earth into a “new earth, for the first earth has passed away.”
- A holy city will, New Jerusalem, will come down out of heaven from God

### **Revelation 21:3-7**

***<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”***

***<sup>5</sup> Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”***

***<sup>6</sup> And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. <sup>7</sup> He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.***

**We are the Temple of God filled with the Spirit of God offering up acceptable sacrifices to God through Christ!**

## **1 Peter 2:5**

***<sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***

- We are the Spiritual New Temple of God—the Church, the Body of Christ.
- We have a relationship with the Desire of all Nations, Christ.
- He is living within us and we are more splendid than any Temple ever built by human hands.
- We are a holy Temple, a chosen Race, a holy Priesthood! Giving service and proper worship to God.
- We are filled with the Spirit of God.
- Those who fear God are the very backbone of a nation. They bring the presence of God, the power of God and the peace of God wherever they go. We are the salt of the earth!
- We are celebrating the First Sunday of Advent. The Advent of our Lord's First Coming, but we are reminded, excited and expecting of the Second Coming of Christ in the last days.

## **Hebrews 12:26-28**

***“Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.”<sup>27</sup> Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.***

***<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.***

- We are building a Temple of God, prepared for His coming.

- We are building the Church, the people of God, taking the Good News of His First Coming with His presence, power and peace.
- And yes, there is much shaking going on in these last days!
- 2020 is shaping up to be one of Great Shaking!
- People are searching for the Desire of the Nations: they are looking for purpose, presence, power and peace!