

WE BEHELD HIS GLORY

(Bro. Bakht Singh, Balance of Truth, 1965)

Part 1. (May)

John 1.1-18

"And we beheld His glory." (John 1.14)

We trust that the Lord will help us also to see the Lord's glory in a new way as we study this passage. Of course, it will take us all eternity to appreciate the Lord Jesus Christ in all the fullness of His glory. In this world we can get only a few glimpses.

As we read John, chapter 1, we realize that when John speaks of Christ's glory, he is not thinking merely of supernatural or miraculous works done by our Lord. His very life was a revelation of glory. "In Him was life and the life was the light of men." v. 4. The main purpose of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was that sinners might receive from Him the gift of eternal life. Few understand what that eternal life is. It is described in Col. 3.4. Life and glory go together. Glory is the perfect work of salvation accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ. It is like the new life that comes from a tiny seed, which one day will become a huge tree and bring forth fruit. The life of the tree is known by the fruit. Much cannot be said of the tree till it brings forth fruit. In the same way, our life in Christ is a seed which will one day bring us glory when the Lord Jesus appears a second time. When He comes again, we shall be like Him with immortal bodies and incorruptible bodies. This is the glory which John beheld. "We beheld His glory."

In the beginning of the chapter he speaks of the power of God as the Creator of the universe. Though many saw His miracles, and heard His preaching, they did not recognize Him (v. 10). They appreciated His preaching, "Never man spake like this man" they said, and they were thrilled to see His miracles. But they did not know Him for they were spiritually blind. John, in saying that they "beheld His glory", did not refer to His miracles. He was one of those who followed Jesus day and night and witnessed His transfiguration, but he did not refer even to the transfiguration of Christ when he spoke of beholding His glory. The glory was that "of the only

begotten of the Father full of grace and truth." God's glory is seen in God's grace. Without knowing God's grace, it is impossible to see God's glory. "And of His fullness have we all received, and grace for grace' (v. 16). The apostle had experienced the grace of God, and he foretold a coming day when he would be filled with God's fullness.

Many of us believe that God can forgive our sins. But can we say with confidence that we shall be filled with the God's fullness? Here, the apostle proclaims that God's grace is so wonderful that one day we will be filled with His fullness. We cannot achieve this by any human qualification nor by knowledge, nor by any human attempt. We can be filled only by grace. The apostle Paul also speaks of him-work of salvation begins by grace, continues by grace and ends by grace.(May be something missing) God's glory can be seen by experiencing God's grace. When we are filled with His grace, we see God's glory. The apostle Paul gives this message in all his epistles with the same burden:

Rom. 1.7; 16.20 last part; I Cor. 1.3; 16.23; II Cor. 1.2; 13.15; Gal 1.3; 6.18; Eph. 1.2; 6.14; Phil. 1.2; 4.23; Col. 1.2; 4.18; I Thes. 1.1 ; 5.28; II Thes. 1.2; 3.18; I Tim. 1.2; 6.21; II Tim.1.2; 4.22; Titus 1.4; 3.15,

He repeated the same with the purpose that we might know God's grace in its fullness. He associates mercy and peace with grace. In 2 Cor. 12.9-10, Paul says truthfully that he takes pleasure in infirmities. God took him through painful experiences to show him the full meaning of grace and to show us how we need more grace that we may experience God's peace and mercy and that we may be fruitful and overcome in trials and infirmities. We need His grace in trials, reproaches and persecution. In the same chapter, Paul speaks of being in Paradise and seeing wonderful things. After this experience, God allowed pain. Paul besought the Lord thrice to remove this thorn from his flesh. Of course, Paul was not an ordinary man like we are who murmur and complain for simple pain. The pain was very severe, so he asked the Lord to deliver him. But God said, "My grace is sufficient for thee." God taught him to know His grace more fully through the thorn in the flesh. What Paul could not know by his experience in the third heaven, he learned by pain. He experienced the all-sufficiency of God's grace in pain and suffering. He was a preacher of grace, because he had experienced grace. Thus, he knew the mighty power of God.

Some of you may be passing through bitter experiences in life. Your wounds may be great and painful. But no good comes of narrating your woeful tale to others. God wants you to experience His grace in abundance. He allowed the pain and sufferings in order to teach you to experience His grace. It is His way to make you know His grace, His grace will give you peace, joy and blessing, and brings glory to Him. By grace we become partakers in His glory, which the Lord Jesus Christ came to reveal to us.

When the apostle saw God's grace turning the sinner into a righteous man, an outcast into a partaker of God's glory, he says, "We beheld His glory." The Pharisees brought an adulterous woman to the Lord Jesus Christ. According to the Law she had to be stoned to death. But the Lord Jesus Christ said: "Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more." By grace, He made her just. The law condemns, but grace forgives. The Law came from Moses, but grace and truth came by the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the glory of God.

Have you experienced this grace? Without grace, you can not see God's glory. Have you experienced peace? Peace and grace go together. Has His grace come into you and changed your life? Has He forgiven you and said "Neither do I condemn thee, go in peace!" If your life is not yet changed do not wait. Now is the time. You can become righteous by His grace, and grow in grace day by day till you see God's full glory.

Part 2 (June 1966)

John 1.1-18

In order to see Gods glory, we have to receive into us the grace of God in a great measure day by day. The more grace we receive and experience, the more we can see His glory. God's Word says 'the Word was made flesh ... full of grace and truth.' Those who came in touch with the Lord Jesus Christ began to taste God's grace and understand Gods truth. We also, as we obey Him day by day, find His grace coming into us in a greater measure, together with the truth of God.

It was with a great manifestation of God's glory that the law was given to Moses, and from Exodus 24:12 & 15-18 we realize how wonderful was the sight. The whole of Mount Horeb was covered with a cloud. Moses had the privilege to be there for forty days and forty nights surrounded by devouring fire, while God spoke to him from the clouds. How great was the manifestation of glory brought to the nations through Moses! Yet the Law was weak, the scripture says as in Rom. 8.3. How wonderful was the manifestation to the people, as the law was being given to Moses, and what an honour Moses had to see the devouring fire on the mount and to hear God speaking clearly as man to man for forty days forty nights! Moses did not become righteous by seeing what he saw and hearing what he heard. Neither did he find true glory. Even though his face was shining when he came down from the mount, that revelation of Gods glory in the law could not make him righteous.

Not a single person can become righteous by the law,—so says the scripture Rom 8, 5. What the law could not do had been done by the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ as Gods Word says in Rom. 10:1 4 "Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth." The Law could not make any man righteous by means of the commandments. The Lord is our righteousness. He Himself is alive and becomes our righteousness. Thus it is that Gods glory comes into us, and others can see that glory in proportion as we are obedient to Him. The Law could not make us righteous. Then why did God give the law. "We know what things so ever law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God." That is the **first** great purpose for which God gave the law to Moses, that all the world may become guilty before God." Nobody has any right to say that he or she is righteous before God, for all of us have fallen short of God s expectation.

Those who have joined the military or police have to pass many oral and medical tests before they are accepted. Suppose a young healthy man passes his oral and medical tests showing that he has good eyes and teeth and that he is healthy and strong. In only one thing he falls short. His height is quarter of an inch less and he is pronounced unfit. He may say "Look at my other marks. I have scored exemplary marks in my tests and my body is very strong. I am only quarter of an inch short and am I still unfit? "

Can his passing the other tests change the law? 'Unless he comes to the proper stature, he cannot be accepted for service. In the same way by God's standard and measure we fall short. Whether a man is one inch or two inches, or one foot or three feet short it makes no difference. Even the least shortage brings disqualification. Similarly, no man or woman in any part of the world can come to God's standard. All of us sin against our conscience from childhood days, perhaps not breaking the whole law but part of it. Thus the law was given that all men might become guilty before God.

Secondly, in Rom. 3.20. "By law came the knowledge of sin." Knowledge cannot take away our sinful nature. I may tell anybody that you have cancer and what I say may be quite true. But if you have to be cured of cancer, my saying every day that you have cancer, will not take it away. So "by law came the knowledge of sin," but the law cannot take away our sinful nature. Again in Rom. 7.13, by the law sin appears more sinful, and that is the third purpose of the coming of the law to men, even that we may know how terrible sin is. The ordinary person may not know the nature of the disease that he may be suffering from, but the doctor will tell that the disease is very dangerous. The patient may say, "I am not as bad as that. I have no fever or pain." But the doctor sees much more than he has seen. He says truthfully his disease is terrible and dangerous because they find that it is spreading. Similarly by the law sin appears; exceedingly sinful, so that people may know that they are under condemnation.

Further in Gal. 3.34, the law was made our school master to prepare us for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nobody has ever been able to live up to the law. The law was given that we might understand justification and that is why the law by itself could not bring God's glory into us, but the Lord Jesus Christ became flesh and came into the world that we might have the same glory. We have already seen in John 1.17 that what the law could not do was done by the Lord Jesus Christ, but

further on in John 8.32 we read: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

In the same chapter we have already seen some men coming to the Lord Jesus Christ in great anger; men who were familiar with the whole law of God, bringing that woman before the Lord Jesus Christ. Those men were extremely proud of the law of Moses, and, looking very indignant, they came to the Lord Jesus Christ, saying: "This: wicked woman has broken the law of Moses and by the same law she must be stoned. What sayest thou?" With beards shaking with anger they repeated: "What sayest Thou?" But the Lord, Jesus Christ just stooped down and wrote something. For a while He never said a word. Now they were doubtless saying within themselves, "We have caught him! We have caught Him!" (Jn. 8.7). "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up him self, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Then read verse 8—"And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground." Those who heard these words in verse 7, went away, beginning from the eldest to the last. Evidently these men did not see what the Lord wrote. They were shouting, "What sayest Thou?" "What sayest Thou?" After he had said that again He stooped down and wrote some thing. Then they would have seen what He had written. They never knew that the Lord Jesus Christ knew their names and ages too. Perhaps He had written the name of the eldest person. "What about **you** Mr. So and so? What about **your** sin?" Very slowly the eldest went away and then one by one the others also left, beginning from the eldest down to the last. Their own behaviour had made them equally guilty before God. They were saying in verse 33: "We be Abraham's seed and were never in bondage to any man," but the Lord Jesus Christ said: "You have not only committed sin, but you are slaves to sin."

Is it not the same with us? even though you say you will not do a certain thing yet you find you cannot give it up. You are like a smoker who is scolded by his wife: "You spend so much money every day, how stupid you are." He promises her, "From today I will not smoke." Every day he makes the same promise. But after a short while, his stomach begins to get bloated. It calls to him: "My dear master, give me smoke." He answers: "I told my wife I will not smoke, but smoke will not leave me alone." So he goes to a closet and smokes. Because men are slaves, they cannot give up their evil habits. We are slaves to many sins. Slavery does not happen suddenly. Gradually we become slaves to many vices and sensual things, and no human effort can ever break this slavery.

The Lord Jesus Christ said to those men, "You are slaves to sin and no man or person or power can ever bring you out of that bondage." But He also said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." The Lord Himself is the truth (John 14.6). It is not Bible knowledge that will make me know the truth. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself becomes my truth. He comes into me and breaks my bonds completely. What the law cannot do and what man cannot do and what others cannot do, the Jesus Christ is able to do. He breaks, and goes on breaking day by day, every habit of sin, and that is how God's glory comes into man every where, and we are able to say: -"We beheld His glory full of grace and truth." These both come together,—the grace of God and the truth of God, and when they come you will know the mysteries of God so far hidden and now made wondrously clear. The loving Lord becomes more real and precious. We see Him daily and clearly, and we hear His voice daily, and in this way God's glory shines out more and more every day.

God's Word says in Matt. 5.8, "Blessed are the pure in heart." As we go on seeing Him clearly and plainly day by day, not with our physical eyes but with our spiritual eyes, (we see Him in the spirit, touch Him, feel Him and receive Him), we find the things of God becoming more real than the perishing though visible things, (Matt. 13.17). Even though in the world we are extremely foolish and stupid, so stupid that we cannot repeat one word correctly, yet we can understand those things which are hidden from the wise, the prudent, the prophets and the angels, (1 Pet. 1.12) because the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, has come into us. The same truth opens our eyes and helps us to see God's glory and beauty till at last we shall be transformed into His image, and become like Him. We are going to be partakers of His glory that is yet to be revealed according to I Pet. 5.11. Do you want to see His glory? Then first of all you must taste His grace. Let the Lord Jesus Christ become your truth and live in you, for He alone can free you from the punishment of sin and from its slavery. In this way you will be come a partaker of the divine nature, and you will see more of God's glory and the fulfillment of His purpose.

August, 1966

Part 3

The Lord has something more to say to us from this fragment of His word: "We beheld His Glory full of Grace and Truth" as we have already seen that, when the Apostle said: "We behold His Glory", he was not speaking about miracles which he and others had seen. He was speaking of the Grace and Truth of God, which they had experienced. In the same passage he says these words: "Grace and Truth came by Lord Jesus Christ" (John 1: 16, 17). The living Lord Jesus Christ is the Truth as he said Himself, and when we receive Him as the truth, then He also becomes our fullness through whom we continue to receive grace for grace day by day and to Eternity.

"The glory of this latter house" we read in Hag. 2: 9 and these words tell us in a very clear way God's purpose and thought for us; something about the heart of God, which is bubbling over with divine love for us. God is love and He loves us and wants us to receive that love in fullness. These words were spoken at a time when the people of God had come back to Jerusalem from Babylon. As prophesied by Jeremiah the prophet they had been in Babylon as captives for 70 years because of their sin and rebellion and according to that prophecy they were to return exactly after 70 years. How true is God's Word, every word of which is inspired by the Holy Ghost and full of many true deep spiritual meanings.

When these people returned to Jerusalem they saw their beloved city ruined, and their houses which had been burnt down at the command of King Nebuchadnezzar. They also saw their temple in ruins and naturally when they looked upon that ruined temple, they were in tears. God reminded them of the glory of the temple that had been built by King Solomon; a wonderful Temple, like which no other has ever been constructed since, according to 1 Chron. 29: 19. God Himself had given the pattern of that temple to David, and the King David had handed over the pattern to his son, King Solomon. Men filled with the Holy Spirit had worked day and night on the building; a unique building in every way judging by the plan, material, and other things. When the work was complete, God's Word tells us in 2 Chron. 7: 1, that His Glory filled the Temple and the whole nation was full of joy. Now this was the very same temple that the returning people of God found ruined, until today the Jews go to Jerusalem to weep over that part of the city. Even though the temple was destroyed so many years ago, to this day they are weeping and

wailing over the ruined temple. The main part of the temple is destroyed completely. Now you see there a Mohammedan mosque. One portion of the wall contains some of the very stone which was used by Solomon for the same building; a very small portion of the outside wall of the Temple, where there is one very large stone. Once in a year the Jews go there to weep by this stone. While they weep they rub one stone against another, and wail and lament and weep for days together. They have done this for many centuries and the stones are being worn out. That shows how as a nation they still grieve for the past glory of the Temple.

God Himself asks them in Hag. 2: 3: "How do you see the temple now? There is nothing but ruins." The message came at a time when the building was ruined completely. The God says in verse 9: "The glory of the latter House shall be greater than the former". That was God's message through Haggai the prophet. Even though the nation rebuilt the temple twice, never again did it attain its first glory. Surely this prophecy does not refer to the earthly building. It speaks of heavenly glory in the days to come, when as verse 7 says: "I will shake all the nations and the Desire of all nations shall come"; the Lord Jesus Christ Himself coming in His full Glory. Only then shall we know the full meaning of glory when He returns the second time with all His holy angels and the saints.

We have been sought and saved and prepared for that happy day, of surpassing glory, a glory that may never be compared to the glory of the Temple built by King Solomon even though built at God's command and according to plan. That Temple though so glorious was only a shadow of what was to come (Heb. 8: 5).

First of all, at God's command, Moses built the Tabernacle, and the same plan was magnified in Solomon's temple. Yet both the Tabernacle and the Temple built by Moses and Solomon were only shadows of the House which is now being built by the Lord Jesus Christ. If the shadows were so glorious how much more the real House. In a shadow nothing can be seen clearly and fully. God's Word tells us clearly that the Tabernacle and the Temple are only shadows. You and I have the wonderful privilege of being part of the real House which is being built to contain God's full Glory. In that Temple of old precious stones were used, brought from many places. The best timber available in Lebanon was used and the pure gold of Ophir. Every thing was so wonderful and so precious in the Temple. But to day the Lord is choosing men like you and me who are so stupid, defiled and useless (I Cor. 1: 28-28). Is not this a mystery, that while the temple of Solomon was built of precious

and wonderful stones, the Lord Jesus Christ is building the true House by choosing foolish men like you and me; men who have been completely ruined, defiled and marked by sin.

In Luke 23: 42, 43, the Lord said: "Today thou shalt be with Me in Paradise." To whom were these words spoken? To a murderer, a man who was being hung on that day for murder, to which he also confessed, for when the other murderer began to revile the Lord Jesus Christ saying "If thou art the Christ, come down", this man said, "Do you not fear God? We are dying for our sins and murder, but this man who did no sin, is dying for us." He added, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into thy Kingdom", and the Lord said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, today thou shalt be with Me in paradise. This is God's glory. The worst possible murderer was welcomed into God's Kingdom, transformed by the grace of God in a minute. This man could never have been reformed. We do not know how many times he must have been in jail, for men often go many times to jail before they finally commit a murder; No prison, no jailor could change this man's heart; but something happened at the cross! He must have been watching very carefully how the Lord was suffering. He had been watching for six hours, how they nailed Him and reviled Him, railed upon Him and mocked Him, and yet all He said was: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do". Suddenly the man's eyes were opened and he knew the man beside him was his Saviour.

"Lord, remember me when thou comest into Thy Kingdom." What a revelation! Even though he had confessed by his own mouth that his sin deserves the cross, it was so great, yet some how he also knew that he could be in God's kingdom. Just by looking at the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Grace was poured into him constraining him to say those words: "Lord, remember me! Lord, remember me!" and that murderer became a saint. What a mystery! What a salvation! What a grace! What power!

Adam lived for 930 years, and then he died. In modern days teeth start falling off at the age of 40, and artificial teeth are used. In many cases hair becomes grey at an early age. That is the modern age! But Adam lived 930 years! He must have had a wonderful body, but he was blind spiritually, and was thrown out of the Garden of Eden under the condemnation of sin. Yet here is a murderer on the cross who had more wisdom than Adam. Even though he died, he went straight into God's kingdom. Is not the glory of this House built by Jesus Christ greater than the former?

The devil thought that by making Adam and Eve disobey God, he would rob them of every right that God had for them. God had given to Adam, dominion, power, and authority over the whole earth and creation. He was king of the whole earth, but because of sin and disobedience he lost that privilege and the devil was very happy. But now in the Lord Jesus Christ we are going to be kings in the new creation, which will be far more glorious than this creation. In this way God will put that devil to shame (Rom. 1: 6). God's purpose for every one of us is to forgive us that we may become kings and priests in God's kingdom (Rev. 21: 23). The heaven and earth were made by God. God spoke, and it was so! But the coming new creation is going to consist of you and me. All of us put together will be called by that name: the new creation, the heavenly Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem. Even though God's Glory came down on the Temple which Solomon built, it could not remain long, nor be seen by everybody. But this glory (i.e., the Glory of the Lord) will be seen in us and around us for Eternity. Though before we were saved by Grace, we were nothing but foolish vessels defiled and ruined, in His hands we shall be transformed, and become worthy to contain God's fullness and show forth His Glory throughout the ages to come.

Let us look at another instance in Luke 7: 50, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." To whom are these words addressed? To a woman who is despised and hated by everybody because of her sinful life, so much so that Simon was saying in his heart, "This man being a prophet ought to have known who this person is". She was despised and hated by every one and yet our Lord had chosen her, to show His glory and to pour His love and grace into her saying: "Thy faith hath saved thee". Take yet another case in John 8: 11. He said: "Go and sin no more", to a woman, who had been caught in the act of adultery. Those proud men were angry with her and said, "Such a woman must be stoned." Yet such a person was chosen, forgiven and transformed by our Lord, and one day you will see her shining in the new creation like a diamond. Such is the grace and glory of our Lord.

Again in John 4: 4 all the disciples wondered when they were told by Jesus that He was going to Samaria for the Jews had no dealing with the Samaritans. Probably they came and said: "We don't want to go that way!" But the verse says that "He must needs go" that way, to see the woman of Samaria; to meet the woman who had had five husbands and was living in sin. Yet again in Luke 17: 16, 17, in the last journey of our Lord Jesus Christ from Galilee to Jerusalem, He came purposely to that country again to seek and to save the leper of Samaria. Can you

not see that no matter how ruined your life has been by sin, the Lord Jesus Christ has come to seek you and to save you and to transform you? None of us have deserved His love and grace; "all have sinned and come short" of God's glory. It is only by His grace that you are being called by Him; called to show forth His glory for eternity (Eph. 3: 10).

A carpenter needs a piece of wood to show forth his skill, the blacksmith a piece of iron, and an artist a brush and a pen. God has chosen us to show forth His skill. The mystery is that God wants such material to show His manifold wisdom and heavenly power in a heavenly place.

In Travancore they make many good things from castaway coco nut shells; but in Madras they use such shells to keep sand or water in. Coconut shells in skilled hands can become articles to treasure. Thus, when we come into the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be transformed, and even the heavenly host will wonder how such persons could become so glorious, though ruined by sin. There is only one answer, and that is that by Christ alone, and not by our own merits or works of any kind will our future glory become greater than the past glory, and that work will be complete only when the Lord comes a second time.

In closing I will give one more illustration. A man went into a shop where they sell diamonds and precious stones. There he saw one stone of a very high price. The other stones were brighter, but this stone was of a dull colour, so the man said: "How is that you are demanding a high price for this dull-coloured stone?" and the shop-keeper said, "Stretch forth your hand!" The man did so and the shop-keeper placed the stone in his hand. "Keep your hand closed for five minutes" he said. "Now open your hand!" The same stone was shining far more brightly than all the other stones in the shop. The heat of the human hand made it shine so brightly. It was a stone called in English the sympathetic opal. In the same way you can become, in the nail-pierced hand of the Lord Jesus Christ a shining jewel to His glory. It does not matter how ugly you are, how defiled, how ruined, how filthy, how dirty! Let him take you in His nail-pierced Hand, and then men will see the light of God coming into your face and into your life, and you will be like Him. One day, indeed, we shall be with Him in immortal glorified bodies and that glory will be far greater than any other we have ever experienced. It is for this purpose and end that the Lord Jesus Christ is calling us.

Part 4

The message of Haggai 2.1 & 9 was brought to the nation of Israel through the prophet about the year 520 B.C. when they had returned to Jerusalem after seventy years of captivity. They had found, their beloved city ruined and the Holy Temple which had been built by Solomon, burnt down. Because that temple had been glorious, they were wailing and lamenting as they saw its present condition. That temple had been built at God's command and according to His pattern and plan and with the materials chosen by Him. When the work had been completed, the scripture says in 2 Chronicles 7: 1 that God's glory filled the temple, even the glory which had departed in the days of Eli the High Priest, when Ichabod had been written over Shiloh because of the sin of the three sons of Eli. Yes, after waiting for 140 years the people had seen God's glory come down on that wonderful temple built by Solomon.

First of all God had raised up Samuel. Through Samuel He chose David, a man after God's own heart and to David God gave the pattern in writing of the temple which was to be built later on by his son; and all the people offered willingly and joy fully whatever the Lord demanded for the temple. When the work was completed, we are told, the glory of the Lord came down and the whole nation was filled with joy. There was, no such temple ever built before or after, anywhere in the world. Now the people returned from captivity to find the same temple ruined and completely burnt and were saying in their hearts: "We will never be able to have such a temple again." In the days of Solomon, Israel had been a glorious kingdom. King David had subdued the enemies of the children of Israel, and Solomon being a wise king, had obeyed God's Word. Now, when the people returned from captivity, how ever, there was no David and no Solomon and no glory of their kingdom. They had returned after seventy years of captivity and whatever they had possessed in times past had been lost. They had hardly any money to build even their own houses. Then how were they going to ever have another temple like that of Solomon? At this time God's message came to them, through Haggai (verse 3). The Lord was saying, "Come forward and tell the people what you saw, of Solomon's temple." Only very old people could tell of what they had seen. They must have been about 85 years of age to be able to tell of Solomon's temple and its glory, because they had been captives for seventy years. No man who had been only ten years old

at the fall of Jerusalem could tell anything about that temple. So God was calling all the old people because they would be able to tell others what they had seen 85 years before; and in grief they said: 'You will never see such a wonderful temple as the one that was built in the days of Solomon.'

Then God spoke and said in verse 9: "The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former," as if to say: "Don't weep over the ruined building any more. I am going to give you a better house which will never be shaken or burnt down and that house will have a true and everlasting glory, which will exceed the glory of Solomon's temple." That prophecy would be fulfilled "when the desire of the nations" would come (verse 7).

It was a prophecy of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, because He is going to shake the whole nation. During His first appearance He came to seek and save sinners. He came as a carpenter of Galilee. He humbled Himself and went about seeking sinners. But when He comes a second time He will come, in full glory. First of all He will judge all those who have rejected Him. Then He will establish His new heavenly house and that heavenly house will be filled with God's glory for eternity; and you and I are going to be part of that wonderful house. As we have already seen, in the days of Solomon and David, they used very precious stones, and very expensive timber for the house; but now the Lord Jesus Christ is gathering these worth less sinners who will be fully transformed till their glory shall exceed that of the angels.

In the country of Japan, they make wonderful vessels from very filthy, dirty rags. If you go to Kobe, Yokahama and Tokyo, you will see shops in which are displayed these vessels made of rags. Each vessel is worth more than Rs. 1,000. They are so beautifully made, yet they have been made out of rags.. These filthy and dirty rags have been gathered and through chemical processes have been made into beautiful vessels. If these Japanese scientists are so clever, how much more so the Lord Jesus Christ our Redeemer. He has an everlasting power to transform us to be like Himself. In Haggai 2.9., He spoke about a latter house which would be filled with God's glory, which will be glorious in a far greater measure than the former house. There will be peace there. "In this place," God said, "I will give you peace." We shall then know the full meaning of peace. Just as by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ we are given grace and truth, so also we are given peace, as our Lord said in John 14:27. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you."

Those words also were spoken by our Lord at the time when the disciples were sad and discouraged because He had told them how He was going to be betrayed, reviled, mocked and killed and would die. Having heard that, the disciples were very sad and said, "Lord, for your sake, we have left all and followed Thee. We have left our homes, our business, our parents and our children and at Thy command, we have forsaken all and followed Thee. Now we have no home, no property, no friends, and are like orphans, and now Lord, you are also going to leave us.. What about us? Where will we go? What shall we do now? Are you going away and leaving us like that?" At that time, our Lord had said "I am not leaving you alone. Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you." That was going to be the strongest weapon with which to defeat the enemy and to come out victorious, as the apostle Paul declares in Rom.16.20, 27 years after our Lord had first spoken those words. In 33 A.D. our Lord said these words, "My peace I give unto you . . . ", and the disciples were asking in their hearts: How can we by peace defeat Satan if he comes? With atomic bombs we can defeat him; but how can we defeat him by peace? Every country goes to somebody else for help at the time of war, some to Peking, some to Moscow, some to Washington, seeking for weapons of defense. But the Lord Jesus Christ has a weapon stronger than any other and that is called peace.

So it was that twenty-seven years after the Lord had spoken, Paul wrote these words: "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." Paul had seen the devil working in many ways and he had received many reports of the devil's activities. He also told of them in Acts 20.29, II Cor. 11.14, II Cor. 2.11, Eph. 6.12, I Pet. 5.8. Paul had seen the devil working in all these ways. He had see the devil working like a wolf, like a roaring lion; and he had also seen the devil working many wicked devices, like a deceiver and as an angel of light. He had seen the powers of wickedness in high places let loose. Yet now he was saying, "For all these things the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet." It is by inward peace that we defeat and confound all the enemy's weapons and prepare material for God's heavenly house. Ps.32.17; Isaiah. 2.17. "The work of righteousness shall be peace. . ."

Some people when they apply for a job carry many testimonials, some of which are very old. They paste the torn pieces on paper and think that by showing these testimonials they will get a job. There are many people also who think that by worldly certificates they have a share in God's House. Some are trying to build God's House by human wisdom and others are building God's House with American dollars

and milk powder, and spend all their energy squeezing the Americans. There are some cows who do not give milk to just anybody. If a stranger starts milking them, they will kick. If someone knows how to pat the cow and coax it, it will stand there quietly, while it is being milked. That is how many people milk the Americans. They have to manufacture and memorize good stories. Some give more money if shown photos and films. Thus some people are trying to build God's house with cursed money and some by human knowledge. All these things are going to be shaken. Heb.12.25, 26, 27. Only those things which cannot be shaken will remain. All other things are going to be shaken as we have seen already in Hag. 2.7. "Before the coming of the desire of all nations, He will shake all nations." Everything will be shaken but peace.

Thus Paul could say in Rom.16.20, "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." If we can maintain in ward peace, then every weapon of the devil will be defeated. The devil may come as a ravening wolf, a roaring lion or like the angel of light. He may use wicked powers but for every attack, the same weapon 'peace' must be used. At the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ the angels proclaimed, "Peace on earth" and when He rose again, the first words He spoke to the disciples were, "Peace be unto you." Among many names given to Him is "The Prince of Peace", Is. 9.6. Though you may know **about** the Bible, you may not know the meaning of the atonement and the New Birth, or of justification or redemption, or restitution; but if the Lord Himself becomes your Peace, then by that peace He will teach you and help you day by day, and by that peace you will become victorious and you will find God's will as we read in Heb. 13.20, 21— ". . . make you perfect in every good work to do His will." It is by inward peace that we find God's will.

In the same way, by inward peace we are sheltered and protected from doubts and unbelief. Phil. 4.6, 7. "The peace of God shall keep your heart" as with a garrison. Suppose you are residing in a castle and you have a very strong army for protection, let there be any enemy coming against you, you are safe inside, because you are sure that your army is strong enough to protect you. God's word says, the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall garrison or surround you like an army. Even though the devil may come again and again against you, he looks at the peace and goes away. But when he sees on your face anxiety, sorrow, distress, he says, "I will come inside." Then he is very very happy. When he sees no peace on your face, he may come like a wolf or flood; but when peace is there, he goes away. It is peace, inward peace, heavenly peace and spiritual peace which is our weapon.

By that peace God is building His House. He is not depending upon your filthy and dirty money for His house. Some people think that because they give Rs. 10/- or 15/- to the House of God, they get concession to absent themselves from prayer meetings or any other meetings. If some body questions them, "Why don't you come to the meeting?" they will say, "Don't you know I gave Rs. 35/- towards the Holy Con vocation? I can go as I like and come as I like. Like the Roman Catholics, I have a Rs. 35/- concession!" The Lord Jesus Christ is not building His House by filthy money or worldly knowledge or gifts. It is by inward peace and our ears being willing to hear His voice daily. Heb.3.5, 6. Thus we saw in the previous messages, that the Tabernacle built by Moses and the Temple built by King Solomon were the shadows of the House of the Lord Jesus Christ. What Moses and Solomon built, however glorious they might be, passed away. But what our Lord is building will never pass away. When God made the first man Adam, He gave him a strong body. He could eat everything, without indigestion or diabetes. He could eat anything at any time and any quantity. What a strong body! He gave Adam great wisdom also. He knew the name of every tree, every bird and every animal. He gave him power over the whole earth, and yet his body was a body of dust. Our hope is that one day we shall be given an immortal, glorified, and spiritual body. What Adam received could not last for ever, but we are going to possess the whole new creation for eternity, and for that privilege we are being prepared. Do we hear His voice clearly every day? Heb. 3.7, 8, 15. By inward peace we hear His voice, by His grace we obey His voice, and see His glory. The more we hear His voice, the more we can see God's glory. Take an example: before you go upon your knees look at your face in the mirror and see how dark and ugly you are. Then go upon your knees and pray for a while, patiently with faith: "O Lord, speak with me, speak with me, give me Thy message for me, for my neighbours or friends." When the Lord speaks with you, then you get up and see your face in the mirror and you say, 'Is it my face? What has happened to it? It was different before I started to pray.'" Now the same face is shining! and you will find the light of God shining more and more as you obey Him. First see for yourself the glory of God, and then others will see His glory in and through you. At last when the work is complete, the angels of God will see God's glory in you. 2 Thess. 1.1, 8.

There are some verses in the Bible which speak of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are 360 references in the Gospel and the Epistles to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and there are 28 chapters about His coming again. He is coming with glory. He is coming with mighty angels and going to be glorified in

His saints. Because of that day we shall be transformed and be like Him. We are going to be presented by the Lord Jesus Christ one by one to the angels, and our glory shall be greater than that of all the heavenly angels. Even the angels will wonder how these foolish, weak, stupid sinners and corrupt men could become so glorious. The angels might say, "We have been in heaven all these centuries hearkening to God's voice, yet we do not have that glory. Lord! How have they become so glorious?" Then He will answer, "By My grace, and that is all; for out of My fullness they have received My grace into their hearts."

Today He is calling **you** to become a part of the latter house. "The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former house." Your glory will be far greater than the glory of Israel in the past, provided you become a part of God's house. To be heavenly, come and hear His voice and for that you require peace. "In this house I will give you peace." Now please tell me, have you found that peace? I am not asking about your Bible knowledge or how many hours you spend in prayer or fasting and so on. My simple question is, and you must answer truth fully: "Have you found true peace, heavenly peace, the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ? Does peace increase in your trials, troubles? Are you able to defeat the devil by that peace? Do you find God's will with the help of that peace?" Please come to Him and let Him give you His peace. Then through you God will show forth His glory in a greater measure. "The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former."

Many people remember the blessings of the former days, what happened thirty, forty or seventy years ago and they write down their experiences. Don't live in the past! God has something far better than this for you. It does not matter what great blessing or joy you might have had ten, fifteen, or twenty years ago, God has something better for you for eternity. "The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former house." One day we shall be like Him, and be with Him as His Bride ever going on to experiences more glorious. But that work must begin in our hearts by peace. Have you found that true peace? If you have not found it, do not deceive yourself. If you have not found it, seek for it. The Lord Jesus Christ wants to become your peace. He is saying, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." That peace will take away all your fears. It will solve all your problems. It will keep you conscious of His presence and help you to find God's will and make your face shine more glorious day by day. Finally, it will make you immortal and you will be filled with God's glory.