

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

ADVENT 2015

These questions are for the **December 6, 2015** sermon, "The Christmas Promise, Part 2." Please read the sermon passage (Haggai 2:20-23) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

In considering the Messiah, note . . .

1. **The final deliverance promised by God** (20-22)
 - A. "OVERTHROW the throne of kingdoms" (22a)
 - i. This is a reference to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18; 19 & Deut 29:23)
 - ii. God is good in giving warnings to the whole world about . . .
 1. MERCY "not getting what we deserve."
 2. GRACE "getting good things we do not deserve"
 3. JUSTICE "getting what we deserve"
 - B. "OVERTHROW the chariots and riders" (22b)
 - i. This is a reference to God delivering his people from the Egyptian captivity/slavery.
 - ii. God proves that his power is preeminent as the Egyptians (and their gods) are defeated.
 - C. "GO DOWN, everyone by the sword of his brother" (22c)
 - i. This is a reference to Gideon's defeat of the Midianites in Judges 7 (22).
 - ii. Pay attention to the warning alarms of God. They are gracious, and for our good.
2. **The personal descriptions provided by God** (23)
 - A. God is using Zerubbabel as his servant.
 - B. God is using Zerubbabel as his signet ring.

NOTE: After San Bernardino, the New York Daily News says, "God is not fixing this!" But this passage has shown us how God has indeed "fixed this."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: New York Daily News: "God isn't fixing this!" How would you engage conversation with someone who made that statement? In what way has God "fixed this"? Is your heart settled and satisfied with God's "fix"?
2. Based on #1, above: How is God's justice (seen at Sodom and Gomorrah) a source of grace and goodness?
3. Based on #1, above: Though God promises specific and final deliverance, we may go through many troubles in this world before we see and experience that final deliverance. How can you better fix your eyes and hopes on the final deliverance, while faithfully and patiently enduring trouble in this life?
4. Based on #2, above: Human political leaders (including presidents) are always being used in God's hand to accomplish his purposes. Sometimes these are gracious purposes, sometimes merciful, sometimes justice-centered purposes. How does this truth change the way you think about Zerubbabel? What about Obama? Putin? Will God use every political leader to accomplish his purposes?
5. Based on #2, above: In the big picture, God uses every detail to accomplish his purposes. Zerubbabel is of the line of David, from which will come Jesus. The Magi who come from the east seeking Messiah may have come from this region. Jesus is the ultimate King of kings. Discuss how God orchestrates every detail for his own purposes and for his own glory.