

## Today's Message Outline: "Behold: Look, Don't Miss This!"

*So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations." - Matthew 1:17 (ESV)*

*In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: <sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." <sup>3</sup> Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, <sup>4</sup> "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? <sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. <sup>8</sup> Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> You looked for much, and **behold**, (Look, Don't Miss This!) it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house." - Haggai 1:1-9 (ESV)*

### One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?

*Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "**Behold**, (Look! Don't Miss This!) this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed. - Luke 2:25-35 (ESV)*

## Look, Don't Miss This!

- Does furthering God's Kingdom take precedence over furthering your own Kingdom?
- Is your hope set on what God will do in your future, or are you stuck on what has happened in your past?

### Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. What was one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
2. Of the two "Behold" questions on this outline, which do you struggle with more? Why?
3. Is there an area of your faith that seems to be "stuck in the past?" Can you explain?
4. Have there been times when your life (career, relationships, hopes & dreams, faith) feels like "one step forward and two steps back?" Would you be willing to share a specific area? Could it be that you are not making the furthering of God's Kingdom your priority?
5. What is one thing you may consider doing this week as a result of the message?