

## ~The Desire of the Nations -What or Who?~

Many people are of the opinion that Jesus is the 'Desire of the nations'. In fact, He is the desire of many people **within** all nations, but hardly the desire of the nations. Jesus told us that the world will hate us as *they hated Him*, so we must look elsewhere for the answer to this question.

**Observe some of the commentaries:**

### **Haggai 2:7 PP1**

(2) "Messiah was not desired by all nations, but a "root out of a dry ground," having "no beauty that we should desire Him" <Isa. 53:2 (from Jamieson, **Fausset, and Brown Commentary**)

**Haggai 2:7** [And the Desire of all nations shall come] The present Hebrew text is as follows: Uwbaa'uw (heb 935) chemdat (heb 2532) kaal (heb 3605 hagowyim (heb 1471), This is a difficult place if understood of a person: but chemdat (heb 2532), desire, cannot well agree with baa'uw (heb 935), they shall come. It is true that some learned men suppose that chemdowt (heb 2532), desirable things, may have been the original reading: but this is supported by no manuscript, nor is baa'uw found in the singular number in any manuscript. **It is generally understood of the desirable or valuable things which the different nations should bring into the temple;** and it is certain that many rich presents were brought into this temple. All are puzzled with it. But the principal difficulty lies in the verb uwbaa'uw (heb 935), they shall come. If we found ubaa' (heb 935) chemdat (heb 2532) in the singular, then it would read as in our text, And the Desire of all nations shall come.' but no such reading appears in any manuscript; nor is it fairly acknowledged, except by the Vulgate, which reads, Et veniet desideratus cunctis gentibus, "*And that which is desired,*" or *the desired Person, "shall come to all nations."* In <Hag. 2:7> *God says He will shake or stir up all nations; that these nations shall bring their desirable things; that the house shall be filled with God's glory; that the silver and gold, which these nations are represented as bringing by way of gifts, are the Lord's; and that the glory of this latter house shall exceed the former.*" (from **Adam Clarke Commentary**)

### **#2532 chemdah-desire**

as a feminine noun: Messiah is masculine

1) desire, what is desirable

as an adjective:

2) pleasant, precious Nothing about Messiah

### **Desire of all Nations**

(3) Other expositors seek to cut the Gordian knot by altogether denying the application to the Messiah, and translating "the desire of all nations" by "the beauty," or "the desirable things of all nations," **i.e. their precious gifts** (see <Isa 60:5,11; 61:6>). This application is defended in the following way: (a) The Hebrew word means the quality and not the thing desired; (b) the Messiah was not desired by all the nations when He came; (c) the verb "shall come" is plural, which requires the noun to be understood in the plural, whereas if the Messiah be intended, the noun is singular; (d) "The silver is mine," etc. <Hag 2:8> accords with the translation "**the desirable things of all nations**"; (e) the agreement of the Sept and

Syriac versions with such rendering. (from **International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Electronic Database Copyright (C) 1996 by Biblesoft**)

### **The Desire of all Nations**

A phrase interpreted by some translations of the Bible as a prophecy of the Messiah <Hag. 2:7>; (KJV, NKJV; **wealth of all nations**, NASB; **treasure of all nations**, NEB). The prophet Haggai envisioned a time when the **choicest and costliest treasures** of the Gentiles would be dedicated to the God of Israel. For the Christian, the Lord Jesus Christ is, indeed "the Desire of all nations." (from **Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary**) (Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

### **Compare the Translations:**

#### **Hag 2:7**

And I will shake all nations, and **the desire of all nations** shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. (KJV)

#### **Hag 2:7**

I will shake all nations, and the **desired of all nations** will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. (NIV)

#### **Hag 2:7**

'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. (NKJ)

#### **Hag 2:7**

I will shake all the nations, and the **treasures of all the nations** will come to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the LORD Almighty. (NLT)

#### **Hag 2:7**

and I will shake all nations, so that the **treasures of all nations** shall come in, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the LORD of hosts. (RSV)

#### **Hag 2:7**

I will shake all nations, and the **Desire of All Nations** shall come to this Temple, and I will fill this place with my glory,' says the Lord Almighty. (TLB)

#### **Hag 2:6**

"Before long I will shake heaven and earth, land and sea. 7 I will overthrow all the **nations, and their treasures** will be brought here, and the Temple will be filled with wealth. 8 All the silver and gold of the world is mine. 9 The new Temple will be more splendid than the old one, and there I will give my people prosperity and peace." The LORD Almighty has spoken. (TEV)

#### **Hag 2:7**

"I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the **wealth of all nations**, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. (NAS)

Half of the Bible versions say it is talking of material treasures that will fill God's Temple and not the Messiah. The other half says the "desire of the nations"-whatever that is. **They do not say the Messiah.** Therefore it cannot be used to build a doctrine on anything, let alone end times. The "shaking of the

nations" would have been an OT battle such as was common in that time period.

### **Haggai 2:1-9**

The shaking of the heathen world did not first begin with the birth of Christ, but commenced shortly after the time of Haggai. It is true that under Darius Hystaspes the Persian empire was still standing at the summit of its power; but its shaking began under his successor Xerxes, and came very plainly to light in his war against Greece. "Even then there were forebodings that the time of this empire would soon be accomplished, and the rapid conquests of Alexander gave fulfillment to this foreboding. And even his power, which seemed destined to last for ever, very speedily succumbed to the lot of all temporal things. Inde (says Livy) morte Alexandri distractum in multa regna, dum ad se quisque opes rapiunt lacerantes viribus, a summo culmine fortunae ad ultimum finem centum quinquaginta annos stetit. The two most powerful kingdoms that grew out of the monarchy of Alexander, viz., the Syrian and Egyptian, destroyed one another. The Romans now attained to the government of the world; but at the very time when they appeared to be at the summit of their greatness, their shaking had very considerably advanced" (Hengstenberg). (from Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament)

**In the context and timing of the verses, the conclusion is that the "desire of the nations" was what is still the most desired thing by the nations--wealth!!**