

2026

out

POSTEXILIC PROPHETS

HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH & MALACHI

COVENANT^{EFC}

CRY

2026

out

STUDY 2

“BE STRONG & PERSEVERE”
(Haggai 2: 1-9)

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WELCOME

Ice-breaker Activity: "Perseverance matters..."

What is one thing or area in life that you find require perseverance?

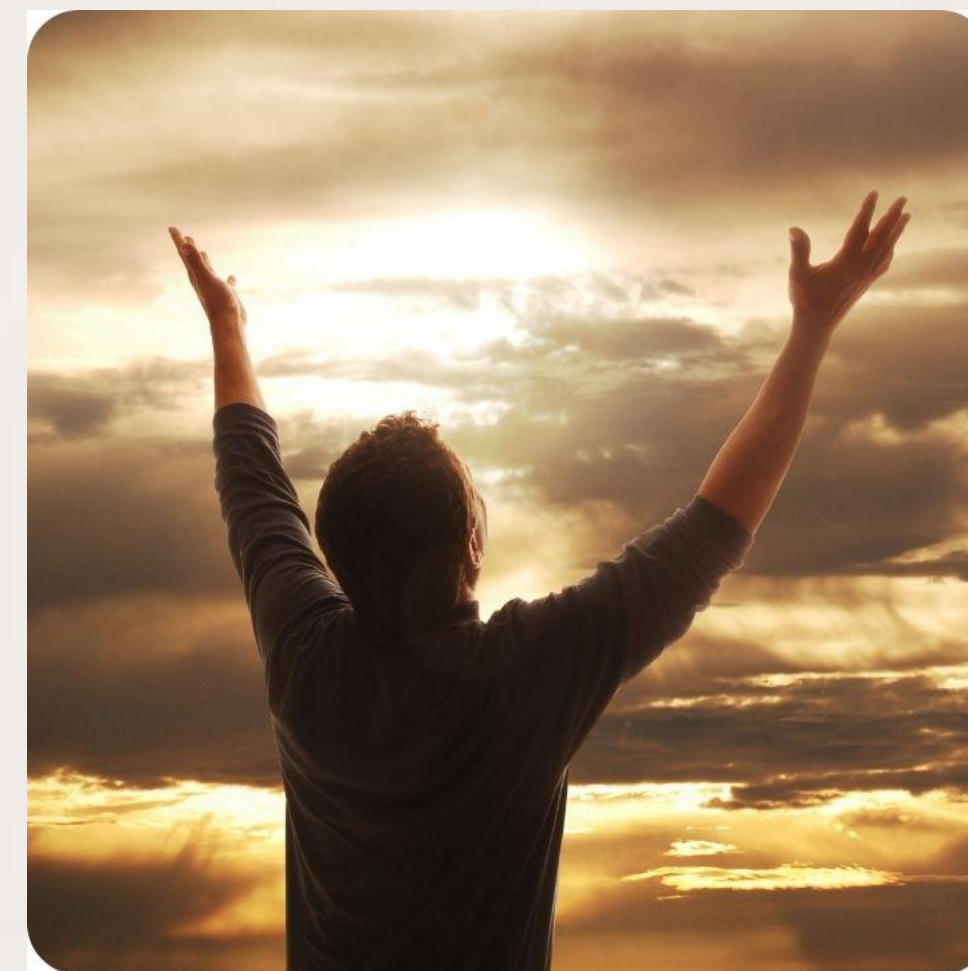
Share about an incident/ instance when you were discouraged but your perseverance paid off.





Worship our faithful God who works all things for His Glory and our Good.

- Great is Thy Faithfulness (Reawaken Hymns)
- His Glory & My Good (CityAlight)
- Way Maker (Leeland)
- Battle Belongs (Phil Wickham)





WORD

STRUCTURE OF HAGGAI

1st MESSAGE:



The challenge towards
covenant renewal
(1:1-15)

2nd MESSAGE:



The promise of
restoration
(2:1-9)

3rd MESSAGE:



The call to holiness
(2:10-19)

4th MESSAGE:



Zerubbabel chosen
(2:20-23)

Source: adapted from Andrew E. Hill
(Tyndale Old Testament Commentary)

Activity 1: Read & Discuss

Read Haggai 2:1-3 and discuss the following questions.

1. Why do you think that the returned exiles in Jerusalem were feeling discouraged as they started the temple rebuilding project? (read v.3 closely, and look at Ezra 3:12-13 for more background context)
2. Try to imagine yourself in their shoes. How do you think you would have felt if you were one of them?

🔍 Exegetical Insight 1: What was “this house in its former glory”?

This refers to **Solomon’s temple** (picture on the next slide).

Details of the architecture of the temple are in 1 Kings 6-7 and 2 Chronicles 3-4.

KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

The temple built by King Solomon is widely referred to as the "first temple." Construction on the "house of the Lord" began in the spring of 967 B.C.E. (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Chronicles 3:1-2). It took seven years to build and was completed in the fall of 960 B.C.E. (1 Kings 6:38). The temple was situated adjacent north of the City of David on Mount Moriah, in the same area that Abraham built the altar to sacrifice Isaac. King David purchased the land from Ornan the Jebusite at the end of his reign (1 Chronicles 21).

The temple was a large and impressive structure, especially compared to the palace and surrounding buildings, but it was not colossal or ostentatious. It was 31.5 meters (103 feet) long, 10.5 meters (34.4 feet) wide and 15.8 meters (51.8 feet) high. The quality of its construction was exceptional. It was built from the highest-quality stone, metals and timber, which were fashioned, largely off-site, by expert Phoenician and Israelite craftsmen.

The inner sanctuary, or holy of holies, was the most sacred part of the temple. This was where the ark of the covenant was placed. This room was 10.5 meters (34.4 feet) by 10.5 meters, and its walls were covered in gold (1 Kings 6:15-29; 2 Chronicles 3:8-14).

Two large golden cherubim stood on either side of the ark, each 5.25 meters (17.2 feet) tall with wingspans of 5.25 meters (1 Kings 6:23-28). The ark of the covenant sat between the two cherubim underneath their wings (1 Kings 8:1-11; 2 Chronicles 5:2-14).

Ten bronze wheeled stands, each holding a basin of water, were positioned around the temple—five on the north, five on the south. The stands were decorated with hand-carved wreaths, lions, oxen and cherubim (1 Kings 7:27-28; 2 Chronicles 4:6). These basins of water were used by the priests to rinse off animal parts used in burnt offerings.

The holy place had clerestory windows with recessed frames (1 Kings 6:4).

The holy place was separated from the holy of holies by a large, finely embroidered purple, blue and crimson linen "vail," or curtain (2 Chronicles 3:14).

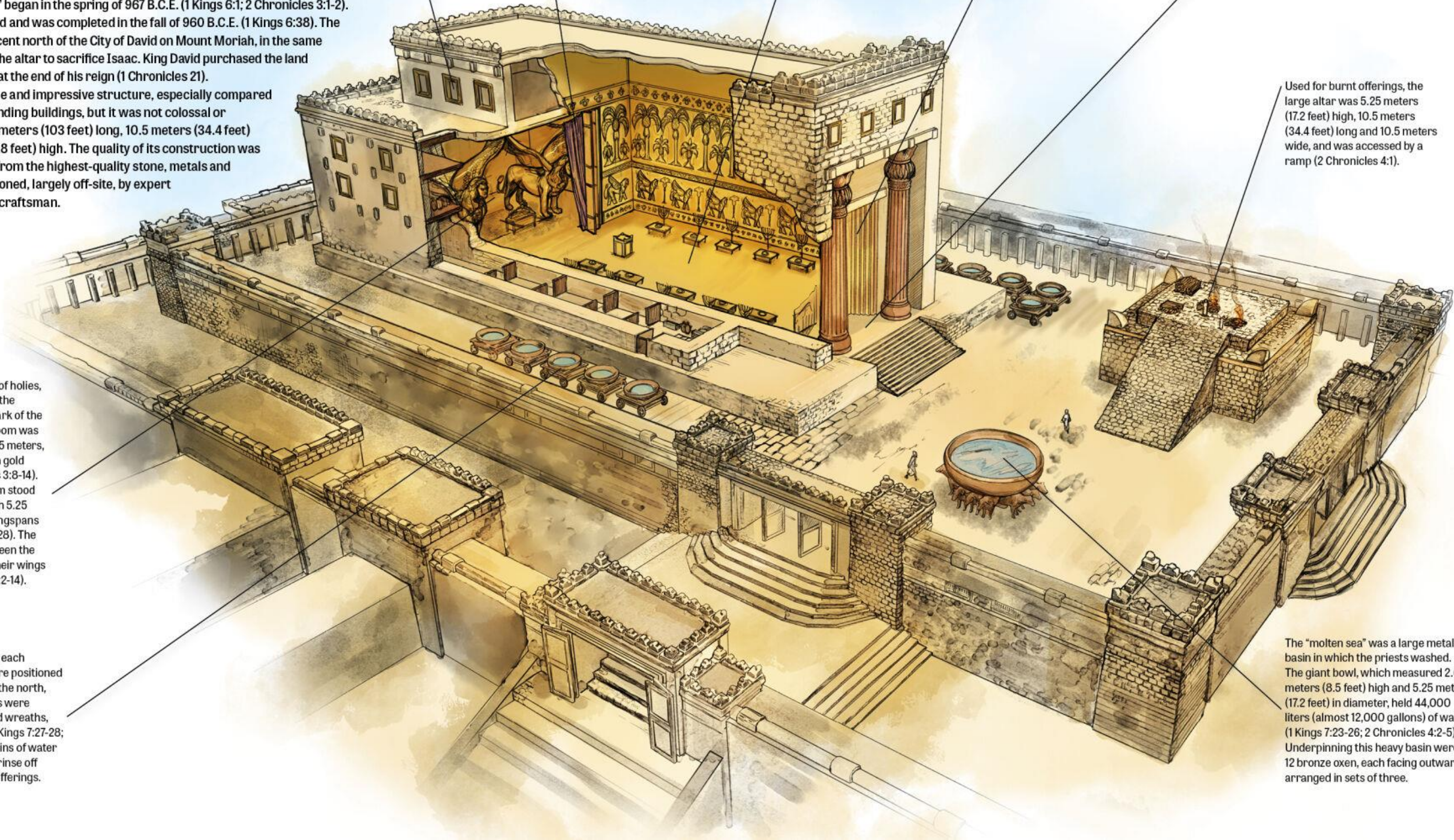
The holy place was the largest room in the temple and contained the golden incense altar, the table for the showbread, and 10 golden lampstands with 10 tables (1 Kings 7:48-49). The holy place was 21 meters (68.8 feet) long and 10.5 meters (34.4 feet) wide. The gold-overlaid walls, built from cedar imported from Lebanon, were carved with images of palm trees, "knops" and flowers (1 Kings 6:17-18; 2 Chronicles 3:5-7).

Two gold-overlaid, wooden folding doors with carved images of cherubim, palm trees and flowers separated the holy place from the porch (1 Kings 6:33-35).

The "porch" (vestibule) was 10.5 meters (34.4 feet) wide and 5.25 meters (17.2 feet) deep (1 Kings 6:3; 2 Chronicles 3:4). Two large bronze pillars framed the entrance. The pillar on the right was called "Jachin," meaning "he will establish"; the one on the left was called "Boaz," meaning "quickness" and "in strength" (1 Kings 7:21; 2 Chronicles 3:17).

Used for burnt offerings, the large altar was 5.25 meters (17.2 feet) high, 10.5 meters (34.4 feet) long and 10.5 meters wide, and was accessed by a ramp (2 Chronicles 4:1).

The "molten sea" was a large metal basin in which the priests washed. The giant bowl, which measured 2.62 meters (8.5 feet) high and 5.25 meters (17.2 feet) in diameter, held 44,000 liters (almost 12,000 gallons) of water (1 Kings 7:23-26; 2 Chronicles 4:2-5). Underpinning this heavy basin were 12 bronze oxen, each facing outward, arranged in sets of three.



🔍 Exegetical Insight 1: What was “this house in its former glory”?

Some highlights of Solomon’s Temple:

- It was built with finely dressed stone (pre-cut so no hammering was heard on-site) (1 Kings 6:7).
- Cedar panels from Lebanon were overlaid with pure gold (1 Kings 6:15, 20-22).
- Every surface inside was covered in gold: walls, floors, ceilings, and even the altar (1 Kings 6:20-22, 30)
- Engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and flowers adorned the walls and doors (1 Kings 6:29, 32, 35)

🔍 Exegetical Insight 1: What was “this house in its former glory”? (Cont’d)

- The temple was built in 7 years (1 Kings 6:37-38) by 30,000 laborers and 3,300 foremen (1 Kings 5:13-16)
- Solomon’s temple was built at the height of the might and wealth of the Davidic kingdom. That’s why there was ***absolutely no way*** the new temple that the returned exiles were trying to build could match up!

Activity 2: Read & Discuss

Read Haggai 2:4-5 and discuss the following questions

3. What are the main imperatives (commands) in verses 4-5?
4. What are the reasons that God gives His people to obey his commands (focus especially on v.5)?

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A Quote to Chew On

Although the temple was the designated place of God's manifest presence on earth, those who rise to the challenge of building the temple are immediately promised God's presence through the words: "I am with you." It is this promise that becomes a springboard for encouraging the people to continue rebuilding.

- Mark J. Boda, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 128

Activity 3: Read & Discuss

Read Haggai 2:6-9 and discuss the following question:

5. We have confidence to work for God because ultimately we know God is at work! In this passage, what are the **actions** that God promises to carry out? What do you think is the **meaning** and **significance** of those actions?



Reflect and Share

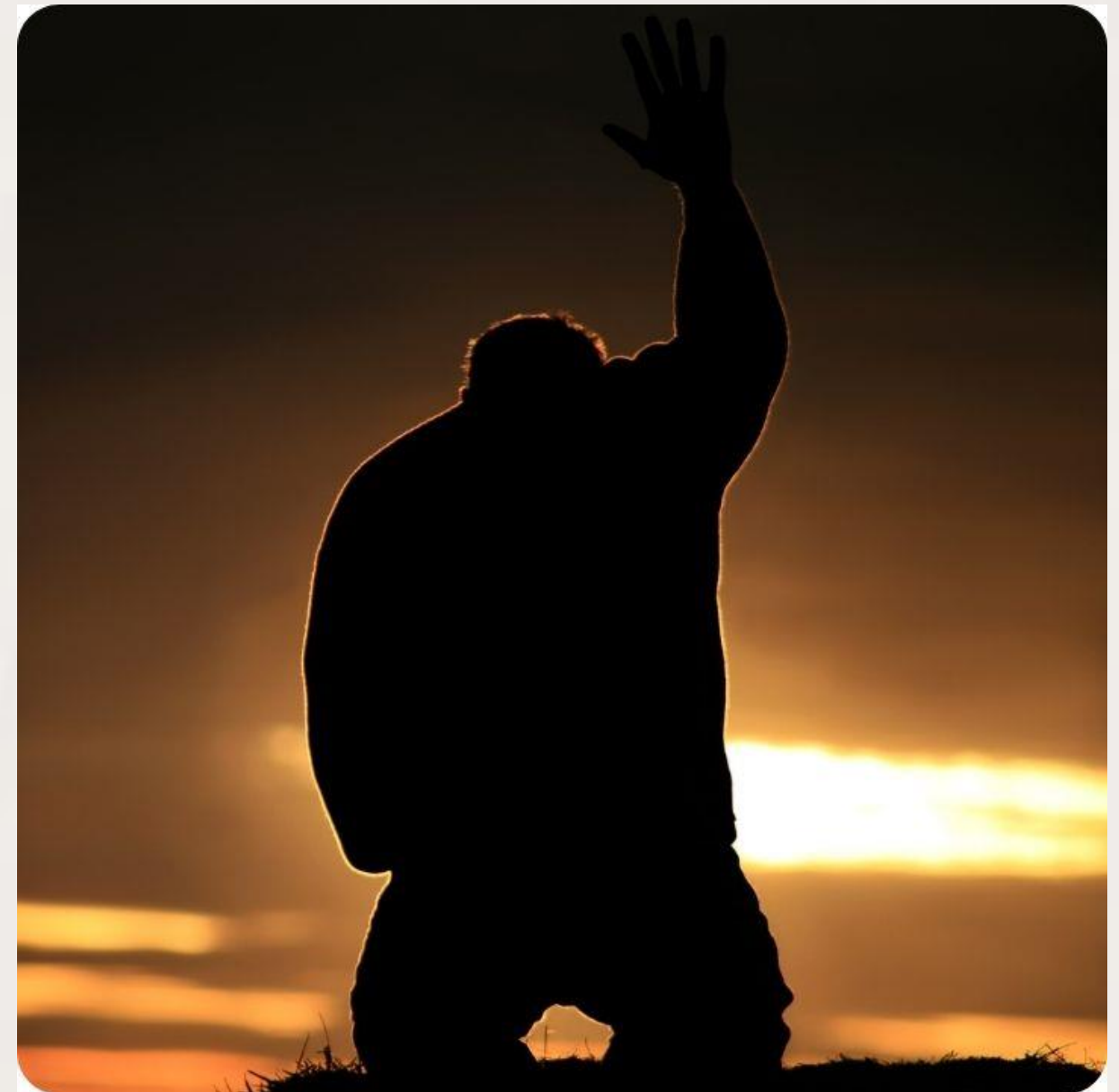
1. Are there situations in your life where you feel disappointed and dismayed, even though you are trying to do what God has called you to do? (v.3)
2. What are one or two areas in your personal life, family, workplace, and ministry that you are asking God to transform with His glorious presence and with His peace? (v.9)



Worship & Prayer *based on the Scriptures*

1. Worship the Lord and receive His grace and strength:

- Everlasting God
- Raise a Hallelujah





Worship & Prayer *based on the Scriptures*

2. Spend extended time praying for and with one another:

- a. for the Spirit of God to renew **courage** within our hearts to do God's will (v.4)
- b. for **ungodly fears** to be **surrendered** and **silenced** (v.5)
- c. for the **peace** (*shalom*) of God to fill our families and workplaces (v.9), that what is broken may be restored
- d. for non-Christians that we know to be drawn to the **glory** of God (v.9)

Additional Resources for Further Study

- Anthony R. Petterson, ed. David W. Baker and Gordon J. Wenham, vol. 25, *Apollos Old Testament Commentary* (Nottingham, England; Downers Grove, IL: Apollos; InterVarsity Press, 2015)
- Andrew E. Hill, , ed. David G. Firth, vol. 28, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2012)
- Mark J. Boda, , *The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004)