

The Book of Haggai
"Restoring a Home for God"
Guest Speaker: Jabbar Amy
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Author: GOD

Instrument: Haggai

Written: 520 BC

Historical background: The nation of Israel wanted earthly kings instead of God. These kings led them into grievous sin, such as idolatry and child sacrifices. As a result, God brought judgment on them by allowing the Babylonians to destroy Israel in 586 BC and take those who remained as captives (2 Kings 24-25).

The Babylonians were conquered by the Persians in 539 BC. Then God used the Persian ruler Cyrus the Great to permit the Jews to return to Jerusalem in 538 BC, so that they might rebuild the temple. (Ezra 1-2). Unfortunately, by Haggai's time, they had still not completed it. (Ezra 3:1-4:5).

Purpose of Haggai: To get the people to restore God's house. A decaying temple signified a decaying relationship with the Lord. It brings weakness rather than holiness to the people.

Thought of our passage: Haggai's Messages From God Are A Mixture Of Rebuke And Encouragement – Obedience Will Lead To Blessing And Success... While Faithlessness Will Lead To Ruin.

- 1. Introduction: Reluctant Rebuilders (1:1-4)**
- 2. Consider Your Ways: Fruitless Prosperity (1:5-12)**
- 3. Promise and Progress (1:13-15)**
- 4. The Former and Latter Glory of This House (2:1-9)**
- 5. Consider Your Ways: Holiness and Defilement; Repentance and Blessing (2:10-19)**
- 6. Zerubbabel: The Signet Ring (2:20-23)**

1. Introduction: Reluctant Rebuilders (1:1-4)

V. 2 The time has not yet come

The people were reluctant to build God's house, but why?

Consider how the enemy works: Satan uses opposition, discouragement, sin, shame, and, of course, Satan uses Comfort to keep us from doing God's work.

Comfort can lead to compromise – There is a reason why God uses “light afflictions to build a mass weight of eternal glory” and NOT “heavy comfort” to build a mass weight of eternal glory. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

V. 3 Haggai the Prophet: God sent his prophet, a “Child of God”, to stir up their hearts towards “Godliness”.

V. 4 Is it time? God calls out their hypocrisy – They had no time to build the house of the Lord, but they had plenty of time to build their own homes.

Truth is an important part of repentance. We all must be Honest with ourselves and God if we expect to accomplish the work He's called us to do.

2. Consider Your Ways: Fruitless Prosperity (1:5-11)

“The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart.”

V. 7 Consider your ways! Twice He tells them to “consider their ways”; once to display their efforts and lack & once more to display His desire and direction.

Only under the true weight of our wrongful actions, thoughts, and desires can repentance be found.

Vs 9-11 You looked for much: How heavy this revelation had to be: that it was **GOD himself** who had closed off heaven and earth from them, and that it was **GOD himself** who told the rain to stop and for the labor of their hands to not produce.

They had the Shema, **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**, and We have **Matthew 6:33**

You can desire much all you want, and in fact you can go out and get it... But being satisfied is a work of the Lord!

3. Promise and Progress (1:12-15)

V. 13 I am with you!: How comforting must it have been for them to know the one who controls everything and clearly the deepest, darkest parts of their hearts, as soon as they “repented,” says, I AM WITH YOU!

V. 14 The Lord Stirred: As a result of their obedience and fear of Him, the Lord stirred up the spirit of the people!

Look at the five ingredients to this “Revival”

1. God revealed the condition of their hearts.
2. God restated His expectations of His people.
3. God called them to consider their ways.
4. They considered their ways, repented, and then obeyed.
5. God stirred their spirits...

4. The Former and Latter Glory of This House (2:1-9) 1 month later

Vs. 1-2 The Word of the Lord: These people, without the indwelling Holy Spirit, were getting their “word of God” through a prophet. But we have the “Word of God” in our hands.

God’s Word always has something to say to us.

V. 3 Who saw this temple in its former Glory? God targets their discouragement about the current temple vs. the former temple.

EZRA 3:12

Gone was the glory of the former kingdom and temple. Gone was the great population. All that was left was the rubble of Jerusalem, the remnant of the people, and the task of restoration.” - Boice

Vs. 4-5 Be Strong and work for I am with you! Our Comfort and the Cure for discouragement is the word of God, the work of God & the Presence of God.

Vs. 6-9 former greater than the latter: In this section, God is trying to reaffirm to His people that all of their past position in the world, their prosperity, and their provision have always come from Him.

Philippians 3:7-9

5. Consider Your Ways: Holiness and Defilement; Repentance and Blessing (2:10-19) two months later

Vs. 10-14 Holiness & Defilement

"Living in the Holy Land and offering sacrifices would not make the people acceptable, as long as they themselves were unclean through neglect of the house of the LORD." - Guzik

"The ruined skeleton of the Temple was like a dead body decaying in Jerusalem and making everything contaminated." - Baldwin

Vs. 15-19 Repentance & Blessing: The purpose of those minor afflictions was to bring His people to obedience, as God desires obedience over sacrifices.

What is the purpose of afflictions in the life of the believer today?

Corinthians 4:16-17

Don't forget how bad it was without God.

6. Zerubbabel: The Signet Ring (2:20-23)

V. 23 Chosen: God has indeed chosen Zerubbabel; he was the shared descendant of both Mary and Joseph, and also Jesus.

Application:

Consider your ways: Are you putting off God's desires, reluctant, scared, discouraged, compromising, or lacking the confidence to start over? Return to God today. Restore His rightful place in your heart. Revival begins when the heart becomes a home for God again. God desires to dwell with His people; the invitation is not merely "Work harder"; it's Repent. Restore. Remain.