

Historical & Scriptural Placement:

The prophet Haggai ministered in Judah after the Jews had been allowed to return from exile by the Persian King Darius in 536 B.C. Zerubbabel had been given the green light to rebuild the temple in 535 B.C. but after one year the building stalled. The project laid in ruin until Haggai took up the charge in 520 B.C. Haggai was a contemporary of Zechariah. Scriptural account is recorded in Ezra 5:1-2; 6:14.

Main Point: Haggai's is the first of the three post-exile prophets. The people had suffered the judgment of God when they had been conquered by the Babylonians. Now that the Babylonians had fallen to the Persians, the Jews were allowed to go home under the leadership of Zerubbabel the governor. The first goal of this remnant was to rebuild the temple and complete the cycle of judgment, repentance, and restoration. However, after one year of labor and the discouragement of opposition, the temple lay in ruin for 14 years while the people rebuilt their lives. Haggai was a man of practicality. He knew the people's spiritual lives were more important than their physical comforts. In order for restoration to take place Haggai encourages the people to man up and rebuild. He also makes it clear that God restores in response to our actions. In opposition to negativism, Haggai discusses the glory of the restored life. He corrects some of the religious misconceptions when he explains that unclean hands makes for unclean work. And finally, Haggai illustrates that God restores for an eternal purpose.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

- CH 1:1 HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION OF HAGGAI: EVENTS OF 520 B.C.
- CH 1:2-11 WORD FROM GOD: AUGUST 29, 520 B.C.
 MAN UP AND REBUILD
 REBUKE FOR SELF-CENTEREDNESS; SPIRITUAL APATHY
- CH 1:12 PEOPLE RESPOND TO HAGGAI'S REBUKE
- CH 1:13-15 WORD FROM GOD: SEPTEMBER 21, 520 B.C.
 WE ACT AND GOD RESTORES
 WORK ON THE TEMPLE RESTARTS
 "I AM WITH YOU" IN THE PROCESS
- ***OLDER GENERATION BEGINS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE TEMPLE***
- CH 2:1-9 WORD FROM GOD: OCTOBER 17, 520 B.C.
 THE GLORY OF THE RESTORED LIFE
 GLORY OF ZERUBBABEL'S TEMPLE GREATER THAN SOLOMON'S
 PROMISE OF THE "DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS"
- CH 2:10-19 WORD FROM GOD: DECEMBER 18, 520 B.C.
 UNCLEAR HANDS MAKE FOR UNCLEAR WORK
 THE REBUILT TEMPLE DOESN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM
- CH 2:20-23 WORD FROM GOD: DECEMBER 18, 520 B.C.
 RESTORATION FOR AN ETERNAL PURPOSE
 GOD'S PROMISE TO ZERUBBABEL



Day 1: Consider....

Haggai 1:1-5 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Why does the prophet Haggai challenge the people to stop and think about what they were doing? (2). What is the benefit to thinking things through as opposed to acting on impulse? (3). Is there sinful behavior in your life that wouldn't exist if you had thought before you acted?

Day 2: Satisfying Purpose....

Haggai 1:6-11 // THINKING POINTS: (1). If you had to summarize the people's general behavior, what one word would you use? (2). According to this passage, Haggai makes it clear what is produced in the self-centered life? (3). What is the key to living a satisfying life of purpose?

Day 3: With You....

Haggai 1:12-15 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What truth does the act of rebuilding the temple illustrate for our lives? (2). Though the work of spiritual renewal and restoration can only be accomplished by God, Haggai challenges our involvement in what way? (3). The work of rebuilding would be difficult. What "Word" brings them encouragement?

Day 4: Coming Glory....

Haggai 2:1-9 // THINKING POINTS: (1). On the road of restoration, in what way do we often become discouraged? In what way were the Jews discouraged? (2). Though Zerubbabel's temple couldn't match up to the physical grander of Solomon's, why would its glory be more than the former? (3). The same person who brought glory to the temple also brings glory to the restored life. Who is the Desire of Nations?

Day 5: Unclean....

Haggai 2:10-19 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Can what is unclean make what is clean dirty? Can what is clean make what is dirty clean? (2). Can your good deeds make you a good person? Do your wicked deeds make you wicked? (3). Apply to choosing who you hang out with.

Day 6: Signet Ring....

Haggai 2:20-23 // THINKING POINT: (1). Though Zerubbabel was not a man of notoriety while on earth, what is God's future promise for Zerubbabel? (2). With this in mind, our actions, words, and deeds on earth prepare us for what future purpose? (3). Zerubbabel's work on earth was small and seemingly insignificant. How does this passage attack this notion?

DEVOTIONS

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