

Haggai 1

Jesus

Mercies New Every Morning

- **Author:** Prophet Haggai. Lit. *Festival of the LORD*
- First of 3 Post-exile Minor Prophets of 12
 1. First 9 Prophesied before exile
 2. Last 3 Prophesied after return: Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi

Only 42,000 of 126,000 Returned to Jerusalem
2/3rd Remained in Babylon

I. Consider Your Ways

1 In the second year of King Darius [not of Daniel but later 520BC], in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by **Haggai** the prophet to **Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to **Joshua** the son of Jehozadak, the high priest

The Word of the LORD came *by* Haggai to Zerubbabel/Joshua

2 "Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "**The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.**" ' "

Nehemiah finished the wall of Jerusalem in only 52 days
Now 18 yrs later only the Foundation/Altar of the Temple are complete

In 538 BC Cyrus King of Persia allowed the exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem after 70 years in captivity. Two years later [536 BC] construction on the temple began led by Zerubbabel. The work stopped after only two years [534 BC] It is now 14 yrs later, September 520 BC, and the foundation of the Temple of God remains desolate.

- Opposition and fear: Samaritans in north
- Economic hardship: Land desolate of materials
- Spiritual complacency: Too much trouble
- Selfish priorities: Now that we have time let's focus on ourselves
- Spiritual excuses...

Spiritual Excuse of the People?
We are waiting on God...The time is not now

- Jeremiah Prophesied restoration 70 yrs from the Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem
- Problem? Babylon invaded Jerusalem 3x over a period of 18 yrs 605/597/587BC

Daniel chose to believe 70 yrs from the earliest date
The people would rather believe 70 yrs from the latter date...to finish their homes

3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in **your paneled houses**, and this temple to **lie in ruins?**"

Everyone is building one of two Kingdoms
God's Kingdom or the Kingdom of Self

The people are focusing on the Kingdom of Self/Not working

5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "**Consider your ways!**

Lit. Consider/Establish your Road
IOWs Look down the highway at where you're headed

Proverbs 1:32 The **turning away of the simple will slay them**, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 But whoever listens to me [wisdom] will **dwelt safely**, And will be **secure, without fear of evil**.

Proverbs 14:15 The simple believes every word, But the **prudent considers well his steps**. 16 A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident.

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the **simple pass on** and are punished.

There is no excuse for any Christian to not walk in Wisdom
His mercies are new every morning...Its time

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and **it will be given to him**. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- OT War and Skill in War
- NT Spirit given Application of knowledge

Pray for Wisdom then Act on the Wisdom you Receive
Is what you're doing now working?

6 "You have sown much, and **bring in little**; You eat, but **do not have enough**; You drink, but you are **not filled** with drink; You clothe yourselves, but **no one is warm**; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a **bag with holes.**" 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "**Consider your ways!**

Consider your ways! Outcome of your current Mode of Operation
Unsatisfied/Discontent/Nothing is working

How about this instead?...

8 Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, **that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,**" says the LORD.

Go up to the Mountains/Bring Me wood!
That would please Me. That would glorify Me. Do you remember...

9 "You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, **I blew it away.**

Tied the paneling to the top of your SUV
Realized it blew off on the way home. I blew it off

9b ... Why?" says the LORD of hosts. "Because of **My house that is in ruins,** while every one of you **runs to his own house.**

You zip by My thing to get to your own stuff/Not working
I have been talking to you through situations/circumstances

10 Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. 11 For **I called for a drought** on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

Q. Why do these things keep happening to me?
A. You have not put God first in all things

- **Elijah goes** to widow/son w/one days food left. Ready to eat...
- **Elijah tells** the widow to give him water...and a morsel of bread

1 Kings 17:12 So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." 13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but **make me a small cake from it first,** and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.' "15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of **flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry,** according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

Giving to Elijah before herself symbolizes our giving to God first
Trusting Him as the One to Satisfy our Soul

Message of the LORD through Haggai to the people?
Seek first the Kingdom and you will know true satisfaction of the soul
His mercies are new every morning

▪ **Application**

1. Don't make excuses. Procrastinate

2. Consider your ways. Look down the road
3. Seek what pleases God first

God is Calling for Obedience
Obedience Pleases the LORD

II. Stirred Up to Obedience

12 Then **Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, and **Joshua** the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, **obeyed the voice of the LORD their God**, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the **people feared the presence of the LORD**.

Good things happen the moment we choose to obey...
The moment we decide to be *single-minded*

Obedience led the Presence of the LORD
The Presence of the LORD led to the Fear of the LORD

The Fear of the LORD always produces two great benefits
The LORDS Protection/The LORDs Wisdom

Psalm 34:7 [Protection] The angel of the Lord **encamps all around those who fear Him** And delivers them.

Psalm 111:10 [Wisdom] The **fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**

Fear of the LORD is demonstrated by our *Obedience to the LORD*
Obedience to the LORD demonstrates our *Love for the LORD*

If you love Me you will keep My commands
Obedience/Fear/Love Relationship

Governor Zerubbabel and High Priest Joshua
Heard the voice of the LORD/Obeyed the voice of the LORD

The LORD was revealed in a very real way among the people

13 Then Haggai, the **LORD's messenger**, spoke the **LORD's message** to the people, saying, "**I am with you, says the LORD.**"

Imagine knowing God is with us?
God is *with us* in a general sense

Matthew 1:23 "...His name Immanuel," which is translated, "**God with us.**"

God is with us in a special sense *when we Fear Him*
God is with us in a special sense *when we Obey Him*

I Am with you says the LORD

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for **I am with you**; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Deuteronomy 31:8 And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. **He will be with you**, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For **You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God **in your midst**, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

John 14:16 [Dwelling in us] And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you**.

The people purposed in their heart to obey
God's response: I am with you

14 So the LORD **stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the **spirit of Joshua** the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the **spirit of all the remnant** of the people

Ezra 5:1 Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah..., prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. 2 So Zerubbabel ... and Jeshua [Joshua]...rose up and began to build the house of God which is in Jerusalem; **and the prophets of God were with them, helping them**.

Excitement: The Spirit of God stirred up Prophets/Leaders/People
The LORD had begun this stirring 18 yrs before...

2 Chronicles 36:22 ... that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD **stirred up the spirit of Cyrus** king of Persia... [The LORD] has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the Lord his God be with him, and **let him go up!**

God's Message led to God's Spirit stirring God's people to Obedience

14b ...and they came and **worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God**, 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.

No longer seeking their own kingdom but the Kingdom of God

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either **he will hate the one and love the other**, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. ...**33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Seeking happiness is elusive

Happiness is a by-product of right priorities
His mercies are new every morning

Once the people made the decision not to remain double-minded and seek God first
Everything else fell into place. Who'd guess?