

Rebuilding Broken Places
Studies in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Haggai
Reverence, Reconstitution, Revelation, and the Remnant
Haggai 1:1-15

INTRODUCTION: Haggai was being moved by God to lead his people to rebuild build the temple. But the people were distracted, despondent and disinterested. *Why?* I believe they had gotten *comfortable living in darkness*. And came to the conclusion that *“it’s not so bad”*. They forgot their purpose because of their location and their *“hearts” became fixed on the things they had*.

BACKGROUND: It has been 70 years of Babylonian captivity. Now it is over the sum of people have returned to their home land. It was time for the Jews to renew their efforts in rebuilding the temple. The economic distress of the people was caused by their negligent delay in starting the construction of the temple. God has a way to *“stir up His people” to do His will*. (Acts 8:1-4)

I. Reverence VI-5

- A. Two Hebrew words, yare' and shachah. The root idea of the former is *"fear."* It is used to express the attitude toward God Himself. (Psalms 2:11)
- B. The people were not demonstrating fear or reverence unto the Lord. By their lack of building the temple, but later on they did. (V12) The temple was a place where God and humanity could meet. This O.T system of worship was a place of meeting, *to approach with sacrifice, and God responded with forgiveness, revelation, and answered prayer*. (Exodus 25:22), (II Chronicles 7:1-3)
- C. This was a foreshadow of what was to come. The faith seeking believer would become the temple where God would dwell. Thus replacing the stone temple building. (I Corinthians 3:16-17) *Do we show reverence unto God more than we do man?*

II. Reconstitution V6-8

- A. **Reconstitution:** the action of building something up again. Reconstruction. the process of restoring something that has been damaged or destroyed. Especially: *to restore to a former condition*.
- B. *“Consider your ways”* (V5, 7) meaning to thoroughly examine our perspective on life, as well as our life-style. To examine one’s heart doing God’s will can

only be done with a heart that is seeking after Him. *His agenda supersedes anything else; it is priority.* (Psalm 90:12), (Hebrews 2:1-3), (Colossians 3:1-2)

- C. Their hearts had to be revived, stirred to serve God with their all to rebuild the temple. *If we are honest, our hearts are desperately wicked and deceitful. Always seeking to please its own desires.* (Jeremiah 17:9-10) *To serve God effectively it must be administered in humility.*

III. Revelation V9-11

- A. The Hebrew word for revelation is galah meaning to reveal. There are two main meaning, to uncover and the other meaning is that of openness and visibility. (Amos 3:6-8)
- B. God was uncovering or revealing to the Israelites who He is. Either they would corporate with His Holy divine plan or He would work on them to change their hearts to understand they were created for His “cause” to serve Him. (Exodus 9:16)
- C. *When God reveals something to us it is for us to respond in worship in some fashion or form to bring glory unto Him. Not for us to gather more head knowledge and be proud and selfish.* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5), (Ezra 9:5-15, 10)

IV. The Remnant V12-15

- A. The Hebrew word for remnant is sa ar or sarid meaning to remain or survive. *The word sarid which occurs only thirty times in the O.T means “those who escape or remain”.* (Joel 2:32)
- B. The theme “remnant” runs through the O.T. *It is important because it reveals how great Israel’s apostasy or unfaithfulness was unto God. And it shows God’s judgment or “wrath” as a core of the faithful will still exist.* (I Kings 19:18, Malachi 3:16-18)
- C. *The remnant obeyed with reverence unto the Lord being “stirred up in their spirit”. The leaders were stirred which led as an example for the people and God stirred them also. And the building of the temple began.* (Chp.2)

Acts 17:16

Paul in Athens

Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he observed that the city was full of idols.

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