

Haggai – 9 July 2026

“A Fruitful Fresh Start”

Introduction

*Haggai is 1st of 3 post-exilic books

Read 1:1-2

1. Persian King Cyrus authorized Israel's return and the building of the Temple in 536 BC
2. But this account of Haggai picks up in 520 BC in the 2nd year of Persian King Darius
3. Zerubbabel Gov & Joshua being High Priest
4. Let's get the backstory from the Book of Ezra

Read Ezra 1:1-4

1. Cyrus gave the decree to go build the House
2. In vss 5-11 items are given to the Jews for this
3. Chap 2 is a list of the faithful that returned
4. Chap 3 they build altar & Temple foundation

Read Ezra 4:1-5 & 24

1. Samaritans & other adversaries discouraged & hindered Israel in finishing building the Temple

2. Lasted for 16 years until Darius in 520 BC
3. This is when Haggai was sent to prophesy

*A fresh new start can seem discouraging when you don't have the resources & relationships you had

Today, we see 4 things God calls us to in the day of a fresh new start

#1 – Called to Construct: Prioritize the Spiritual over the earthly, you have My counsel (Chap 1:3-15)

Read 1:3-4

1. They've just returned to reestablishing new life
2. They should priority their spiritual life *first*
3. We should put time & money into our church & ministry instead of our own temporary needs

Read 1:5-6

1. Physical efforts don't produce the natural result when we're not prioritizing the God's will first
2. Having fellowship with God & His favor are more valuable than earthly possessions

Read 1:7-11

1. God can do more in my life if I only keep 80% of my time & money, giving Him the rest, rather than if I keep the whole thing for ‘my needs’
2. We make minor changes on physical things that can be lost in a moment w/o God’s blessing
 - a. Investing: We add \$50 here & there to the stock market & a market crash can lose it all
 - b. Fitness: We work hard to lose 5 lbs here & there & a car accident or injury can lose it all
 - c. Home Improvements: We update this or that, but a flood or hurricane can remove it all
3. Investing in this world is a bag *with* holes; investing in spiritual things is a bag *w/o* holes
 - a. There’s promised reward for *that* investment

Read 1:12

1. Leaders listen w/ a mind to obey & they fear
2. Now, since there’s a positive response from the leaders, the chapter will go on

- a. God can now reveal the fellowship of the command, not just the order of the command
- b. This is a life of faith; to obey God when He speaks, then He gives more information to help

Read 1:13-15

- 1. The greatest blessing of obedience to God is fellowship with Him
- 2. The greatest thing we need as we enter into a difficult situation that requires faith is to know God's with us
- 3. Which came 1st 'the stirring' or 'doing the work'?
 - a. Doesn't matter; do our part & God will do His

#2 – Called to Courage: Don't despise a small start, you have My Covenant, Spirit & Promise (Chap 2:1-9)

Read 2:1-3

- 1. This new Temple, the 2nd Temple, will be much smaller than Solomon's Temple
- 2. It's reality that some works of God are smaller than other – but that doesn't make it illegitimate

3. It's reality that most works of God start small

Read 2:4-5

1. Zec 4:10 tells us to not despise the days of small things
2. Though Israel has less land & people than b4 the exile, they have the same God & promise
 - a. Yahweh God is still with them
 - b. They still have God's promise to fulfill His purposes through them
3. This small group of Israelis ***will continue*** – so God can fulfill His promises thru them

Read 2:6-9

1. God is promising that His later activity will bring glory to this Temple
 - a. Heb 12:27 quotes vs 6 to say, 'all that man is trusting in will fall to ruins, while God remains'
 - b. He specifically says 'silver & gold' will be brought into it
 - c. Herod the Great will refurbish this Temple into majesty to fulfil God's promise here

2. But this has to go beyond just Herod's financial improvements b/c of vs 9
 - a. Other than gold, what was Solomon's Temple filled with? The Shekinah glory of God
 - b. This new Temple will be filled with God Himself Jesus Christ
3. "Desirable things of the nations" can also be translated "Desire of Nations" pointing to Jesus
 - a. Jesus came to the Temple & said, "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto Me." (John 12:32)

#3 – Called to Cleanliness: Set your heart on fearing God, you have My blessing (Chap 2:10-19)

Read 2:10-14

1. Can the clean contacting the unclean make it clean? No
2. Can the unclean contacting the clean make it unclean? Yes

3. As unclean people come near to God's holy things, they're ***not*** made clean & it hinders work
4. How does the unclean become clean? Read on

Read 2:15-19

1. When they started building the Temple 16 years earlier, they brought their ***hands of work***, but they hadn't brought their ***heart for God***
2. Two months ago, in Hag 1:12, they began to bring their hearts
3. Five times in this book God challenges them to "set their heart to consider"
 - a. Once the heart is turned toward ***listening & fearing*** the Lord, ***then*** He can bless & provide
 - b. This is what it is to have a bag w/ no holes

#4 – Called to Confidence: He's coming back, you have My promise (Chap 2:20-23)

Read 2:20-22

1. Just like Noah working on the ark knowing that there's an end result

- a. Zerubbabel is encouraged - God is coming
2. The believer live by faith in God's promises
 - a. ***Because*** He's coming, I can face tomorrow
 - b. ***Because*** He's coming, I can do the work He's called me to
 - c. ***Because*** He's coming, I can endure w/ peace
3. It changes everything when we live in light of His 2nd coming (Read I John 3:2-3)

Read 2:23

1. Kingly lineage from David down to Messiah
Jesus ran thru the King Jeconiah (before Captivity)
2. Jeconiah was cursed (Read Jer 22:24-30)
 - a. Signet ring of God's authority was removed
3. Now here with Zerubbabel, Jeconiah's grandson, the signet ring of authority returns
 - a. He is chosen as the enduring legacy of David to bring about the Messiah who will overthrow all thrones and kingdoms

Conclusion – End by reading Ezra 5:1-2

You're either facing a fresh new start now or you soon will be

Maybe you're delayed and just need to get going

- 1. What is the Lord calling you to Construct?**
Prioritize the Spiritual over the earthly
 - a. He's giving us His instructions today
- 2. Take Courageous; Don't despise a small start**
 - a. He's given us His Covenant, Spirit & Promise
- 3. What is the Lord calling you to Cleanliness regarding? Set your heart on fearing God**
 - a. Then He'll give His blessing
- 4. Have Confidence; Jesus is coming back**
 - a. He's given us His Word