

Unfinished Business

Chad Hutson / General Adult

Haggai: A Matter of Priorities / Haggai 1:1–11

The unfinished temple reveals Israel's disordered priorities and self-centered ambitions.

Divine Dispute

In verses 1-4, Haggai identifies the root issue of misplaced priorities in the Israelites' lives. What do you give priority to over God's kingdom work? By examining our personal choices, we should reflect on whether we have neglected God's mission for our own ambitions.

[Ezra 1:2-4](#); [Proverbs 4:23](#); [Zechariah 7:4-6](#);

Covenant Consequences

In verse 5, God calls Israel to “consider your ways,” meaning to examine their hearts and the motivations for their activities. The futility experienced by the Israelites when their priorities were misaligned is a consequence of their covenant relationship with God. We must all evaluate the emptiness of pursuits that exclude God's work (vv. 6, 9-11).

[Haggai 2:17](#); [Amos 4:6-11](#); [Hebrews 12:7](#); [Philippians 4:7](#);

Required Remedy

True blessing and purpose come from prioritizing God above all else (v. 8). Just as God commanded the people to complete the temple for His glory, we look to Jesus who fulfilled the Father's will perfectly and join in His work of building the “temple.”

[Proverbs 4:23](#); [Romans 12:2](#); [11:22](#); [John 2:19-21](#); [Psalm 16:10](#); [1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#); [1 Peter 2:5](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#);