

Making The Most Of Your Moment

April 15, 2018

I. Introduction: History of Israel

Ezra 9:8-9 “But now, for a brief moment, the Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage. Though we are slaves, our God has not forsaken us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem.

Ezra 5:1 Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.

Haggai 1:14 So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God,

II. Five Steps To Make The Most Of Your Moment

1. Start With Purpose

Haggai 1:1-2 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: This is what the Lord Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house.’”

A. Your purpose is determined by your role.

B. Your purpose is determined by your relationship.

C. Start with God's general will and allow Him to direct His specific will.

D. Be careful that the pain of the past does not keep you from God's purposes for you today.

2. Identify The Obstacles

Haggai 1:2-4 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house.’” Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”

- Obstacles paralyze you from your purpose.

A. The Obstacle of Fear

Ezra 4:4 Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building.

B. The Obstacle of Apathy

C. The Obstacle of Disobedience

- Allow your fear to become your opportunity.
- Trade your apathy for preparation.
- Choose the blessing of obedience.

3. Live In Unity

Haggai 1:12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.

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- An absence of unity creates an abundance of chaos.

A. Have A Unified Self

James 1:8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

B. Have A Unified Home

Mark 3:25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Proverbs 26:21 As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

C. Have A Unified Church

- Unity and uniformity are not the same thing.
- Unity is destroyed by what we fight about.
- Unity is found in what we fight for.

4. Choose Obedience

Haggai 1:12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.

A. Obedience is the key.

B. Obedience unlocks God's purpose.

Haggai 1:5-11 Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the Lord. "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

- Your life will not move forward until you choose obedience.

C. Obedience unlocks God's blessing.

5. *Awake To Action*

Haggai 1:13-14 Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord. So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God,

A. Moments start with stirrings

B. To be stirred means to awake to action.

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