

HAGGAI

PRIORITIES IN STRANGE TIMES

DISCUSSION GUIDE



WEEK 4: WHY SHOULD I HOPE IN THE FUTURE?

Read the Text

Haggai 2:20-23

²⁰The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, ²¹“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, ²²and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother. ²³On that day, declares the Lord of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the Lord, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the Lord of hosts.”

Main Point

As we reach the end of Haggai, things appear pretty bleak. The temple is built, but it pales in comparison to the original. There are lots of reasons to be discouraged. The people are being difficult, the temple looks terrible, and everything seems to be in disarray. But God in His wisdom and kindness reminds Zerubbabel of His eternal purpose. ***No matter how chaotic and hopeless our situation may seem, we can take heart that God will bring relief through Kingdom restoration, and we can take cover in Jesus' death which reconciles us to Him.***

As God continues to address Zerubbabel, we learn a little more about who Zerubbabel is. Not only is he the governor, he is in the family line of David, making him a part of the family line of Jesus. What are we to infer from this? Although we may not be in the blood line of David, ***our value and worth comes from our adoption as sons and daughters into God's family through the work of Jesus.*** When we feel like we are failing in our work, relationships, hobbies, or whatever – we can rest in knowing that our identity is in Jesus and we have a Father who loves us and delights in us no matter what.

Zechariah is another prophet who had a word from the Lord for Zerubbabel. Through him, God offers Zerubbabel great encouragement and promises to complete His work through him. This is a powerful reminder to us that ***our calling and plan in life is not self-empowered, but Spirit-empowered.*** We can feel encouraged in any circumstance, knowing that God has an eternal perspective and will complete every good work. And even if the situation seems bleak at the time, He still delights in us and calls us His own.

Reflect Together

1. When your life seems chaotic and out of control, where do you go emotionally – despair, hopelessness, control, etc? What brings you hope? How do you remind yourself of God's eternal purpose?
2. Why is it important to remember our status as sons and daughters of the King rather than mere employees or hired hands?
3. How encouraging are you to others? Who can you encourage this week? Take some time in your group right now to encourage one another! How do you see the Spirit at work in one person from your MC or DNA?