

HAGGAI in CONTEXT

PART 1

Israel was the gold standard of Middle Eastern culture

Israel's Golden Age was under Kings David and Solomon

Israel was a world power

Israel's temple was a wonder in the ancient world

HAGGAI in CONTEXT

PART 2

Israel's God was deserted Israel's power and prosperity diminished Israel's temple was destroyed Israel's people were deported

HAGGAI in CONTEXT

PART 3

In just one generation, God mercifully returned the exiled Jews to their homeland.

> God asked them to rebuild his temple

After several years of being back, no work had been done.

HAGGAI 1

In the second year of King Darius, on [August 29th], the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Judah's governor Zerubbabel, and the high priest Joshua. This is what the Lord says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the Lord's house to be built."" Then the word of the Lord came through Haggai: "Is it a time for you to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?

HAGGAI 1

"Now this is what the Lord says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have 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 to build this house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified.

HAGGAI 1

"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why? Because my house remains a ruin while each of you is busy with his 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 oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands.""

HAGGAI 1

Then Zerubbabel, Joshua and the whole remnant of the people obeyed God's voice and the message of Haggai, because the Lord had sent him. And the people feared the Lord. Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this word to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord. So the Lord stirred up the spirits of Zerubbabel, Joshua and all the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God, on [September 21st] in the second year of King Darius.

THE MAJOR ISSUE IN THIS MINOR PROPHET'S WORD WAS THE PROBLEM OF MISGUIDED PRIORITIES.

The Jewish remnant made the decision to establish their lives and rebuild their homes before rebuilding God's house.



GOD SPEAKS

"These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the Lord's house to be built."" (v. 2)

THE JEWS GUILT

Practical Atheism:

not denying God's existence; but denying God's **preeminence**.

GOD'S REBUKE

"Is it a time for you to be living in your paneled houses, while my house remains a ruin?" (v. 4)

Paneled Houses:

going beyond simple repairs to using luxurious milled wood to adorn their homes.

THE **PROBLEM** WITH MISGUIDED PRIORITIES:

Every time we complete one, another one takes its place—and before you know it, 17 years have passed.

After 17 years, they had rebuilt their homes, reestablished their careers and restarted their families—and gotten into the habit of putting God off.

They have an "I'll-get-to-it" attitude.

God deserves a "Yes-Lord-I'll-be happy-to-do-it" kind of people.

GOD'S REMEDY

"Give careful thought to your ways." (v. 5)

God doesn't want them to respond out of fear, he wants them to reflect on what life has been like for the last 17 years with their misguided priorities.

LIFE UNDER MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

"You plant much but harvest little. You eat but aren't satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothing but can't keep warm. Your paycheck goes into a purse with holes in it.

...You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why? Because my house remains a ruin while each of you is busy with his own house." (vv. 6 & 9)

LIFE UNDER MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

We may get what we want, but "God sends leanness to our souls." (PSALM 106:15)

We reap dissatisfaction.

We **diminish** our bless-ability by tying God's hands.

A WORD FROM THE LORD

"Give careful thought to your ways."

I have only one day to say, "Yes, God, I'll be happy to do it."

That day is not someday; *it is today!*

THE REAL ISSUE

"Go to the mountain and get wood to build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified." (v. 8)

The real issue is not neglect of a building but indifference to God's glory the building represents.

Indifference to the well-being of the church building and the church's spiritual mission is always symptomatic of misguided priorities, namely, the neglect of God's glory.

THE PROPER RESPONSE

"They obeyed the Lord's message and started showing proper respect for the Lord." (v. 12, CEV)



Then Haggai gave this message: "I am with you," declares the Lord. So God stirred up the spirit of Zerubabel the governor, and the spirit of Joshua the high priest, and the spirit of all the people. They came and began to work on the house of God." (vv. 13-14)

THE *Rewards* of **REALIGNMENT**

- 1. An <u>experience</u> of God's presence: "I am with you,' declares the Lord." (v. 13)
- 2. An <u>infusion</u> of God's power. "So the Lord stirred their spirit." (v. 14)
- 3. A <u>visitation</u> of God's glory: "I will fill this house with glory." (Haggai 2:7)

"The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the LORD Almighty." HAGGAI 2:8

GOD OWNS IT ALL, AND HE WILL RELEASE PLENTY BOTH FOR HIS WORK AND FOR MY WORK WHEN I MAKE BUILDING HIS KINGDOM MY PRIORITY.

"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house. ... And in this place I will grant peace." HAGGAI 2:9

When we build God's house, promote God's work and honor God's priorities, we will get something better than a building or achievement or recognition.

We get the kingdom and power and glory of GOD himself!



