

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Haggai – Chapter 1
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KEY PHRASE: Prioritize God First In Your Life

I. Haggai encourages Jews to resume building the temple.

Ezra 1 speaks of King Cyrus and Haggai speaks of King Darius. Darius was the son of Cyrus and took over rule after him.

Ezra 4:1-5 (NASB) *Now when the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people of the exile were building a temple to the LORD God of Israel, they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we, like you, seek your God; and we have been sacrificing to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here." But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of fathers' households of Israel said to them, "You have nothing in common with us in building a house to our God; but we ourselves will together build to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia has commanded us." Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and frightened them from building, and hired counselors against them to frustrate their counsel all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.*

Ezra 4:24 (NASB) *Then work on the house of God in Jerusalem ceased, and it was stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.*

Haggai gives prophecies that were nearer term and others that were forward looking into the millennial kingdom which is still yet to come.

Haggai 1:1-4 (NASB) *In the second year of Darius the king, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,*

A. The people made excuses for not building the temple.

1. The returnees delayed saying it was not the right time.

Haggai 1:2 (NASB) *"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'This people says, "The time has not come, even the time for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt."'*

Believers must make service to God, God's people, and God's house a part of their regular routine.

Isaiah 44:28 (KJV) *That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

2. The returnees delayed for selfish reasons.

Haggai 1:3-4 (NASB) *Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?"*

They had been allowed to return to the city and reestablish themselves and to rebuild the temple of the Lord, but they become self absorbed and disinterested.

B. Haggai told the people to **reflect** on how hard they were working with **lackluster** results.

Haggai 1:5-6 (NASB) *Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!" "You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes."*

Psalms 127:1-2 (KJV) *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*

1) Our work is in **vain** when it is not first for the Lord.

Haggai 1:7-11 (NASB) *Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!"*

8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD. "You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?" declares the LORD of hosts, "Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house. "Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce. "I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands."

2) God is the giver of **all** when we make him **first** not last.

II. The people **respond** to God and **obey** his directions.

Haggai 1:12 (NASB) *Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people showed reverence for the LORD.*

A. The **ONLY** proper response to God's Word is **obedience**.

After you **Consider** your ways...then **CHANGE** your ways!

Haggai 1:13 (NASB) *Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke by the commission of the LORD to the people saying, " 'I am with you,' declares the LORD."*

B. Remember God is **always** with His children.

Haggai 1:14-15 (NASB) *So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king.*

C. God will add **supernatural momentum** to our work to serve Him.

A church like ours that has been so blessed needs to remember this.

Next Week Read Haggai Chapter 2