



Lessons From The Prophet Haggai

Haggai 1:5

Background of Haggai

- Judah taken into Babylonian captivity – 606 BC
- After 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11-12) God used Cyrus (Isaiah 44:28; Ezra 1:1-5) to allow them to return to the land and rebuild the temple.
- This work had started shortly after the first exiles returned from Babylon in **538 BC** (led by Zerubbabel).
- The building activity was soon abandoned because of discouragement and oppression (Ezra chapter 4).

Background of Haggai

- **520 BC, Haggai and his fellow prophet, Zechariah, were given the responsibility to help the people to resume the task.**
- Conditions weren't good. (1:6)
- What was their message? From **Haggai 1:5, 7...**
"Consider your ways!"
- What is there for us to learn today?

Consider Your Priorities - 1:1-15

- **Is it time?** (1:2, 4)
- A lack of time for God is considered to be **"displeasing"** (1:8) and **"irreverent"** (1:12)
- **How do we use our time?** Perhaps the clearest and most honest means of reflecting our priorities. **Matthew 6:33**

Consider Your Priorities - 1:1-15

- They needed **"stirred up"** (1:14) which comes from God's message. **2 Peter 1:12-13; 3:1**
- Our challenge to build the Lord's house – not physical but spiritual. (**1 Corinthians 3:6-17; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:15-16**).
 - Our responsibility is to seek and teach the lost, to worship and to serve – and to not allow our personal gratification and pleasures to take first place.
 - Sinful or not! Luke 14:16ff; Hebrews 12:1

The best is yet to come – 2:1-9

- Times were hard – (1:9-11)
- Memories of what used to be – (2:3-4) Ezra 3:12
- Get to work and God will bless – (2:7-9)
 - Start where you are – **Acts 8:35**
 - Use what you have – **Luke 21:2**
 - Do what you can – **Mark 14:8**

The best is yet to come – 2:1-9

- “The best”? It’s not now, it wasn’t yesterday or any time before.
 - “*The glory of this house will be greater than the former*” – verse 9
 - God says, don’t focus on right now! Focus on what will be for the best is yet to come.
 - **Where’s our focus?** Now or later? **2 Corinthians 4:16ff; Romans 8:18-25**
 - **Ecclesiastes 7:8-10** – the end is better than the beginning.
- Are we convinced that the best is yet to come?

From this day onward – 2:15, 18

- **We can’t change or undo the past** but we can alter our future.
- The Jews couldn’t undo their past ways but **from this day onward they could put God first.**
- We can press forward with resolve to keep our priorities straight.

From this day onward – 2:15, 18

- **Philippians 3:7-16** – forgetting what lies behind, pressing forward to what lies ahead.
- To the woman caught in adultery, Jesus said, from this day onward, **“Sin no more”** – **John 8:11; 5:14.**
- From this day onward, there is to be a change, a new walk. **1 Peter 4:1-4; Ephesians 4:17ff; Colossians 3:1-11.**

God Rules – 2:20-23

- God reminds us all that He will always rule in the realm of mankind. He alone can overthrow thrones or kingdoms; render the power of nations powerless.
- The lesson Nebuchadnezzar had to learn. **Daniel 4:17, 25, 32**

God Rules – 2:20-23

- Does he rule in my life? Is Jesus my Lord? **Matthew 7:21-23**
- Am I His disciple? **Matthew 10:24-25**
- Have we taken the yoke of Jesus upon us? **Matthew 11:28**
- Have we decided to follow Him? **John 21**