

Series: **Haggai**
Title: **Five Houses of the Lord: Clean Your House**
Does your temple need cleaning?
Text: Haggai 1 and 2

The Setting

- 587 BC Jerusalem destroyed and people exiled to Babylon
- 539BC Babylon falls to the Archemenid Empire and exiled Jews were allowed to return
- According to the biblical Book of Ezra, construction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem began c. 537 BCE
 - Starts, then ceases.
 - Work began after their return (Ezra 3).
 - Samaritans had placed a hold on it through intrigue with Cyrus.
 - Ezra 4 – the entire scheme and the letter to (Cyrus) that ceased the building.
 - “Now issue an order to these men to stop work, so that this city will not be rebuilt until I so order.” (Ezra 4:21)
- A new leader, Darius, 62 years old, (Dan. 5:31) had changed rule (Ezra 6) and thus the work of the temple could commence. Ezra 4:24
 - This adjustment may be as a result of Daniel being spared in the den of lions and Darius.

Dan. 6:25-27 – Darius’ Decree for the nations

Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:

“May you prosper greatly!

“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

“For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Ezra 6:7-8 – Darius’ Decree for the Temple

⁷ Do not interfere with the work on this temple of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders rebuild this house of God on its site.

⁸ Moreover, I hereby decree what you are to do for these elders of the Jews in the construction of this house of God: The cost is to be paid to these men in full and without delay from the royal revenue, the tribute of the province from Beyond the River.

Three Individuals / Two groups

Haggai –the prophet – name meaning “My feast,” or “feast”

- 520 BC the work begins again after this prophecy
- God speaks to Haggai to give messages to the governor, the high priest, the remnant and the priests

Zerubbabel – the Governor – sent by Babylon

- Zerubbabel led the first group of Jews, numbering 42,360, plus 7,337 servants and 200 singers (Ezra 2:64-65), who returned from the Babylonian captivity.
- ⁸ *Cyrus king of Persia brought them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to **Sheshbazzar** the prince of Judah. ...¹¹ All the articles of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem. —Ezra 1:8,11 NKJV*
- Messianic figure:
 - In that he is said to hold the signet ring of YHWH
 - One of two olive trees in Zechariah: priest and king

Joshua – the High Priest –

- God also used Joshua the high priest as a symbol of the future Messiah (Zechariah 3:8).
 - Zechariah saw a vision of the angel of the Lord giving Joshua the high priest **clean garments in place of his filthy garments.**
 - This action symbolized the removal of Israel’s sin (Zechariah 3:3–4).
 - **Olive tree** - Zechariah sees a golden lampstand and two olive trees, with the lampstand being fed oil from the trees - Zech 4
 - **Branch** – The angel then told Joshua of the Branch who will one day come to remove the sins of the people - Zech 3
 - **Crown** - God also told the prophet Zechariah to make a crown of silver and gold and place it on Joshua’s head (Zechariah 6:11). Zechariah was to say, “Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the Lord. It is he who will build the temple of the Lord, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne”

All the remnant – The people who had been sent back to Israel

- They had met the challenge of building the wall – Nehemiah
- They had set their minds on rebuilding their lives

The Priests

- The Great Assembly of Men
 - 120 elders including 80 prophets
 - Elders, priests and prophets

- Priests, Levites were assigned their duties per the Mosaic law.
 - **Ezra 6:18** - *And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses.*
- These men will be asked legal questions about cleanliness.

Two Phrases

- “Thus sayeth the Lord...”
- “Consider your ways” / “consider this day”

“Thus sayeth the Lord”

- 13 times
- The authority that is speaking
- The authority that must be obeyed

“Consider your ways” / “Consider the day”

- 2 each - 4 times
- Ways – prioritize godly over earthly
- Days – blessings or cursing

Five Messages and Four Houses

We know the days because we have the reign of Darius given in history

Message One: First House

- **September 1, 520 B.C.** (1:1-11)
- The present House
- God Challenges His people
- In ruins
 - Needs your attention and your priority
 - If not dealt with you will bear the consequences
 - Drought in produce and production

Haggai 1:3-4 ³ *“Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.”* ⁴ *“Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?”*

Consider your ways – “You Over Me”

1: 5-6 – ⁵ *Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways.* ⁶ *You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.*

- Sown much – harvested little
- Eat...but never enough
- Drink, but are not filled
- Clothed, but never warm
- Earn wages, but they fall through the holes

Consider your ways – Build My House

v.8 – *Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.*

- Here is your job
 - Go up to the Mountains – (cut trees)
 - Bring wood – (make lumber)
 - Build a house – (the temple)
- Here are the results
 - God will take pleasure
 - God will be glorified

Why?

v.9 – *Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.*

- Neglect has consequences (10, 11)
 - *You looked and it came to little*
 - *You brought it home and God blew away*
 - *Heavens withhold the dew*
 - *Earth withholds produce*
 - *A drought on what the ground brings forth*
 - *A drought on the product of the labors of man and beast*

Message Two

- **September 24, 520 B.C.**
- **The people obey and build (1:12-15)**
 - God blesses them because they are obedient

1:13 - *“I am with you, declares the Lord.”*

- Obedience brings His presence
- Is there anything greater or mightier or of more value than the presence of the Almighty?
- In times of need, is there another that you would wish by your side?

- In the fights through life, do you not desire the Lord to be your strength and be with you?
- Obedience brings His presence

Message Three: Second House

- **October 21, 520 B.C (2:1-8)**
- **The Former House 2:1-3**
- **Discouragement Answered**
- **Nostalgic discouragement**
 - First house seen as better
 - What we are doing is not as favored or as good as what was done before
 - The people are discouraged and God encourages them.
 - Some are discouraged because this wooden shack is not nearly to the glory of Solomon's temple
 - God encourages them

v.3 – *Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?*

- **Third House**
- **The Latter/ Future House 2:9**
 - October 21, 520 B.C
 - *“The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”*

Message Four – December 24, 520 B.C. (2:20-23)

- **Encouragement Given**

Divine Encouragement

- Be strong.
- Work, for I am with you.
- We are in covenant.
- My Spirit remains.
- Fear not.
- God defines what is truly necessary regarding the house of God
- God reveals a future temple a permanent temple under divine rule

v.9 *“The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.”*

- Adorned in beauty
 - Silver and gold from the nations – 6-8

- Filled with peace – v.9
 - *“And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.”*
- The coming of Christ who brings peace?
 - Peace to mankind’s soul or peace in all of Creation?
- The temple in the Millennium? Not mentioned. Rev 15 speaks of the temple (tabernacle in heaven filled with smoke. Rev. 20 says there is no temple in heaven because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

The message is given in December. - Given to the governor.

- In that day God’s purpose will take place through Zerubbabel, in the Line of David to bring the Christ, and will not be defeated
- Millennial rule of Christ – The signet ring
- God calls for confidence in the future
- Certainly this of the last days
 - Shake the heavens and the earth
 - Destroy the strength of the nations
- Haggai quoted in Hebrews

Hebrews 12:26-29 - ²⁶ *At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”* ²⁷ *The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.* ²⁸ *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,* ²⁹ *for our “God is a consuming fire.”*

- Dual fulfillment
- God will shake what needs to be shaken and in Haggai’s day those who oppressed the people of God would face His retribution....and also in the Last Day. They will be shaken.
- YET! We have a kingdom that cannot be shaken.
- This is a promise of the future House
 - **Heb. 12:25** - *If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?*

March 3, 516 BC – Building Completed (Ezra 6:15)

I want to address a Fourth house that is alluded to in this book

That house is your house

Message Five – The Fourth House (The Consecrated House)

- **Cleaning Your House 2:10-19**
- The date is December 24, 520 B.C.

Two questions asked of the priests 2:10-13

- When holy touches unholy, does it make the unholy holy? NO
- When unholy touches holy, does it make the holy unholy? YES

As a child of God, when you are with the unsaved, do you make them holy? NO

As a child of God, when you are with the unsaved can they make you unholy? Yes

The principle is that when holy and unholy come into contact both are unholy.

Jesus said as a man thinks in his heart so is he.

Good tree produces good fruit.

The heart must be changed.

Religion and rituals will not make one holy.

Bad company corrupts.

Haggai 2:14 - *“So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, declares the Lord, and so with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is unclean.”*

- Works and offerings unclean
- What they offer at the temple is unclean

Consider the day before the foundation was laid:

Haggai 2:15-17 – ¹⁵ *Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the Lord, ¹⁶ how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty. ¹⁷ I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to me, declares the Lord.*

- Before your foundation is set God works against you
- The purpose is to call you back
- They would not listen

Consider the days since the foundation was laid:

Haggai 2:18-19 – ¹⁸ *Consider from this day onward, ...Since the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid, consider: ¹⁹ Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you.”*

- Now that the foundation is set – you will be blessed.

- Do not be discouraged. You may feel as you are waiting.
- But the seed is now in the ground and that which has been sown will be reaped.

Our Foundation is Christ and we are to live for Him - HOLY

Romans 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Is your spiritual house in ruins?

Are you tending to the building up of the temple of God which is you?

Are you focusing on the right priorities and placing God first?

Challenge

Set Your Priorities 1:9

Turn to God 2:17

Be Obedient 1:12

Be Strong in the Lord 2:4

Make Christ your foundation 2:18