

Pray and then read and meditate on Haggai 1

1. Haggai was written around 520 BC. Where are we up to in the story of the Bible? How can you find out if you do not know?

2. According to verses 2-3 & 9, what is the issue God has with Israel?

3. How can you be guilty of serving your own needs before serving God?

4. What is the outcome of Israel's behavior? (v.5-6 & 9-10)

5. What is Israel commanded to do in verses 7-8?

6. Why is God so concerned about his temple?

7. What might it look like for us to "build God's house" or temple today?
 - a. Consider John 2:12-22

 - b. Consider 1Corinthians 3:16-17

c. Consider 1Corinthians 6:19-20

d. Consider Ephesians 2:21-22

e. Consider Hebrews 10:24-25

8. How can you make sure this is the "priority building" for you?

a. Consider Matthew 6:25-33

b. What might this look like in daily living?

9. What do you think God takes pleasure in?

10. What could you do today that God may take pleasure in?

11. What do you think glorifies God today?

12. What could you do to glorify God today?

13. What is encouraging about Israel's response in verse 12?

14. Do we, this side of Jesus, still need to obey and fear God? Why/why not?

15. What is encouraging about God's response in verse 13?

16. How does Jesus fulfill Haggai?

17. In what way is God with us today?

a. Consider Jesus (Matthew 1:23, 28:20)

b. Consider the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-8; 13-14)

18. How can the fact that God is with you today help you face the difficulties you are facing right now?

Prayer

1. Thank God for Jesus, who always and only served God
2. Thank God that He is with us today through His Holy Spirit
3. Ask God to "stir up" your spirit to live for Him today
4. Ask God to help you to obey and fear Him
5. Ask God to show you where you can "busy yourself" building up of God's temples?

Pray and then read and meditate on Haggai 2

1. How much time has passed between chapters 1 & 2?

2. From verses 2-3 it seems that the new "house of God" is a major disappointment.

3. What is God's message to a disappointed Israel in verse 4-5?

4. God's people were discouraged as they looked at the small, unimpressive temple they were building. How might you become similarly discouraged when you consider the new covenant temple? How does Haggai correct and deal with this discouragement?

5. God points Israel to His covenant and His Spirit for comfort. How can we gain comfort from the new covenant and the Holy Spirit?

6. Read verses 7-9, then shut your eyes and try to imagine what it might look like?

7. When were (or will these) verses fulfilled (or be fulfilled)?
 - a. Consider John 1:14

 - b. Consider Hebrews 10:14-28

c. Consider Revelation 21:22-27

8. What is God saying with the whole holy verses unclear questions? (verses 11-14)

9. What point is God making in verses 15-19?

10. Does this have any relevance for you today?

11. The writer to the Hebrews takes up Haggai's anticipation of the future (Hebrews 13:25-29). How can you more actively anticipate that future? How will a heightened awareness of the future God has promised change how you live this week, month and year? Think about how you live with regard to money, time, relationships and work.

12. What does it mean for God to make Zerubbabel a "signet ring"? (verses 20-23)

13. How does Jesus fulfill Haggai 2?

Prayer

1. Thank God that Jesus is glorious
2. Ask God to strengthen you at times when serving Him can sometimes feel “disappointing”
3. Thank God that the new covenant is even better than the old covenant
 - a. To see how much better, check out Hebrews 8
4. Thank God that His Holy Spirit remains in our midst too.
5. Ask God to help you and other be ready for the final revelation of His glory.
6. Ask God to help you to prayerfully “consider” you life in light of the message of Haggai.

Pray and then read and meditate on Ezra, to get some more background on the situation in Haggai