

## Lessons From Haggai For Today

## Introduction

- Haggai is one of the 12 “Minor” prophets
- The basic message of Haggai, only two chapters, may be unfamiliar to many of us
- But, there are valuable lessons first given to the people of Israel who had returned from Babylonian captivity and now to us, the people of God today
- Do we ever get discouraged facing the great spiritual tasks before us?

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## Introduction

- Are we ever negligent in continuing and completing the work God has given us to do?
- Do our good intentions end in discouragement and failure in completing God’s work?
- Haggai provides spiritual encouragement and hope that if we continue serving God, without fainting, he will strengthen and bless us with all things

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## Lessons From Haggai For Today

1. General historical background
2. Situation that caused the Lord to call Haggai
3. Spiritual principles to be applied by Israel
4. Spiritual principle to be applied by Christians today

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## God Brings Babylonian Captivity

2Ch 36:15 The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent *word* to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place;

2Ch 36:16 but they *continually* mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

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## God Brings Babylonian Captivity

2Ch 36:17 Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave *them* all into his hand.

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## God Brings Babylonian Captivity

2Ch 36:18 All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought *them* all to Babylon.

2Ch 36:19 Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles.

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## God Brings Babylonian Captivity

2Ch 36:20 Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, 2Ch 36:21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

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## God Brings A Remnant Back To Jerusalem

Ezr 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying:

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## God Brings A Remnant Back To Jerusalem

Ezr 1:2 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

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## God Brings A Remnant Back To Jerusalem

Ezr 1:3 'Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.

Ezr 1:4 'Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.'"

## 536 BC Building of Altar and Foundation of The Temple

Ezr 3:1 Now when the seventh month came, and the sons of Israel *were* in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.

Ezr 3:2 Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers arose and built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses, the man of God.

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## 536 BC Building of Altar and Foundation of The Temple

Ezr 3:3 So they set up the altar on its foundation, for they were terrified because of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.

Ezr 3:4 They celebrated the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and *offered* the fixed number of burnt offerings daily, according to the ordinance, as each day required;

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## 536 BC Building of Altar and Foundation of The Temple

Ezr 3:5 and afterward *there was* a continual burnt offering, also for the new moons and for all the fixed festivals of the LORD that were consecrated, and from everyone who offered a freewill offering to the LORD.

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## 536 BC Building of Altar and Foundation of The Temple

Ezr 3:8 Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began *the work* and appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the LORD.

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## 536 BC Building of Altar and Foundation of The Temple

Ezr 3:9 Then Jeshua *with* his sons and brothers stood united *with* Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah *and* the sons of Henadad *with* their sons and brothers the Levites, to oversee the workmen in the temple of God.

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## 536 BC Building of Altar and Foundation of The Temple

Ezr 3:10 Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD according to the directions of King David of Israel.

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## 536 BC Building of Altar and Foundation of The Temple

Ezr 3:11 They sang, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, *saying*, "For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

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## The People Discouraged From Building For 16 Years

Ezr 4:1 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,

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## The People Discouraged From Building For 16 Years

Ezr 4:2 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."

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## The People Discouraged From Building For 16 Years

Ezr 4:3 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."

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## The People Discouraged From Building For 16 Years

Ezr 4:4 Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and frightened them from building,  
Ezr 4:5 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.

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## The People Discouraged From Building For 16 Years

Ezr 4:23 Then as soon as the copy of King Artaxerxes' document was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their colleagues, they went in haste to Jerusalem to the Jews and stopped them by force of arms.

Ezr 4:24 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.

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## 520 BC Zechariah and Haggai Encourage The People To Start Building Again

Ezr 5:1 When the prophets, Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them,

Ezr 5:2 then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak arose and began to rebuild the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were with them supporting them.

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## 516 BC The Temple Was Completed

Ezr 6:13 Then Tattenai, the governor of *the province* beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues carried out *the decree* with all diligence, just as King Darius had sent.

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## 516 BC The Temple Was Completed

Ezr 6:14 And the elders of the Jews were successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

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## 516 BC The Temple Was Completed

Ezr 6:15 This temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

Ezr 6:16 And the sons of Israel, the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

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## Misplaced Priorities Had Caused Them To Stop Building

Hag 1:1 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,

Hag 1:2 "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.'"

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## Misplaced Priorities Had Caused Them To Stop Building

Hag 1:3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,

Hag 1:4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house *lies* desolate?"

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## Misplaced Priorities Had Caused Them To Stop Building

Hag 1:5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!

Hag 1:6 "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."

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1. General historical background
2. Situation that caused the Lord to call Haggai
3. Spiritual principles to be applied by Israel
4. Spiritual principle to be applied by Christians today

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## Spiritual Neglect Leads To Spiritual Ruin

Hag 1:7 Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!"

Hag 1:8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD.

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## Spiritual Neglect Leads To Spiritual Ruin

Hag 1:9 "*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.

Hag 1:10 "Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce.

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## Spiritual Neglect Leads To Spiritual Ruin

Hag 1:11 "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."

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## Spiritual Neglect Leads To Spiritual Ruin

Hag 1:12 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.

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## They Despised Their Present Progress

Hag 2:1 On the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet saying,

Hag 2:2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying,

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## They Despised Their Present Progress

Hag 2:3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?

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## Consider Your Ways and Start Working To Glorify God

Hag 1:7 Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!

Hag 1:8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD.

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## Take Courage and Work To Glorify God Who Provides All Things

Hag 1:13 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."

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## Take Courage and Work To Glorify God Who Provides All Things

Hag 1:14 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,

Hag 1:15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king.

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## Take Courage and Work To Glorify God Who Provides All Things

Hag 2:4 'But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' declares the LORD of hosts.

Hag 2:5 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'

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## Take Courage and Work To Glorify God Who Provides All Things

Hag 2:6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.

Hag 2:7 'I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

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## Take Courage and Work To Glorify God Who Provides All Things

Hag 2:8 'The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts.

Hag 2:9 'The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the LORD of hosts."

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## Hope In A Faithful God Who Keeps His Promises

Hag 2:20 Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth *day* of the month, saying,

Hag 2:21 "Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, 'I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.

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## Hope In A Faithful God Who Keeps His Promises

Hag 2:22 'I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.'

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## Hope In A Faithful God Who Keeps His Promises

Hag 2:23 'On that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like a signet *ring*, for I have chosen you,'" declares the LORD of hosts.

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## Consider Our Ways and Put Serving God First

Mat 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

Mat 6:20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

Mat 6:21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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## Consider Our Ways and Put Serving God First

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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## Consider Our Ways and Put Serving God First

Mat 6:25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

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## Consider Our Ways and Put Serving God First

Mat 6:30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!

Mat 6:31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'

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## Consider Our Ways and Put Serving God First

Mat 6:32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Mat 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Mat 6:34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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## Get To Work Now On Whatever We Have Neglected

Eph 5:14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

Eph 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

Eph 5:16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Eph 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

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## Be Courageous and Hopeful Knowing God Provides All Things

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Rom 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

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## Be Courageous and Hopeful Knowing God Provides All Things

Rom 8:30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

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## Be Courageous and Hopeful Knowing God Provides All Things

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

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## Rejoice In Our Present Progress and Progress More

Php 3:12 Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Php 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,

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## Rejoice In Our Present Progress and Progress More

Php 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Php 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;

Php 3:16 however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

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## God Is Glorified In His Church His Spiritual Temple

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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## God Is Glorified In His Church His Spiritual Temple

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## God Is Glorified In His Church His Spiritual Temple

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

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## God Is Glorified In His Church His Spiritual Temple

Eph 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

Eph 2:22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

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