

HAGGAI, KINGDOM INVESTMENTS
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Haggai 1:3-6 *Then the LORD sent this message through the prophet Haggai: 4 "Why are you living in luxurious houses while My house lies in ruins? 5 This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! 6 You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!*

I. Exhortation to Build [1:1-15]

- A. Israel's people were to focus on what they are to build ... God's Temple.
- Instead they became complacent; neglected the work that they were sent for.
 - Instead of rebuilding God's temple they built for themselves homes of great splendor. [1:4]
 - There will be consequences (again) for their actions. [1:5-6]

B. The Lord inspires them, and the people respond [1:13-15]

II. The Future Glory of the Temple [2:1-9]

- A. As they complete the temple there are some who are disappointed in themselves and in what they have been able to accomplish.
 [Ezra 3:12-13]

The second temple was never intended to be as magnificent as the first... The reason seems to me to be this: in the second temple, during the time it should stand, the dispensation of Christ was softly melted into the light of spiritual truth. The outward worship was to cease there." Charles H. Spurgeon

- Haggai encourages them with reminders of: [2:3-9]
 - > what God did in the building of the temple
 - > what to look forward to "the temple's future glory" ... JESUS

B. The coming Christ will give these old temple bones new life, new purpose.

Haggai 2:9 *The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. And in this place I will bring peace. I, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!"*

III. From Defiled to Blessed

- A. They were a defiled people because of their *sin* against God and they were *cursed*. When the work was done on the Temple, God restored *blessings*. (2:14-15)
- B. Lesson: God wants all of us to live in submission to *His authority*. It is not enough to live in the right town; but to be active in doing what God has called us to do.
- C. Look forward to Messianic Age. The One is coming who will bear the authority and message of THE KING.

IV. Challenges from Haggai

- A. Our choices matter. They matter to God.
- B. The obedience of God's people is part of how God works in the world.
- C. Our choices and obedience to the Father should spur us to action. Knowing that our obedience brings blessings and points others toward Christ is a motivator to obey
 - it takes work (Haggai 1:8)
 - God's challenge through Haggai to the people was to . . .
"Consider your ways." [v 1:5, 1:7, 2:15, 2:18 ESV]

Haggai 2.23 *"I will make you like a signet ring on my finger", says the Lord, "for I have chosen you. I, the Lord of Heaven's Armies have spoken!"*

Investments tell us a lot about where our hearts are [Luke 12:34]. Take time today to evaluate. Are you like these exiles returning home and building up treasures for themselves, or will you make KINGDOM INVESTMENTS?

**ARE YOU MAKING SOUND INVESTMENTS?
IF NOT "CONSIDER YOUR WAYS."**

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Amen.