
THE BOOK OF

HAGGAI

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HAGGAI 1:1-11

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THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Haggai 1:1-11 (NIV)

1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest: 2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the LORD's house to be built.' " 3 Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" 5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. 6 You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never

have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." 7 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD. 9 "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. 10 Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. 11 I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands."

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"Give careful thought to your ways."

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

This week ask God to give you insight as to what He has planned for you. As you pray, also ask that He give you an open spirit to hear what He has to say.

MESSAGE

Haggai is a short but powerful book, containing only two chapters totaling 38 verses. The Israelites have been released from captivity in Babylon in order to rebuild the temple to its former glory. A small problem is soon determined. The crops that had been planted were not growing and the cattle were not producing milk. Those who had returned had begun to work on their own houses and had left God's house in ruin. In verse nine we see that God has shown the reason for their current frustration about life after captivity, "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house."

Twice God gives the imperative, "Give careful thought to your ways." God wants us to **THINK** about our life and what it is focused on, and as we have seen over and over, it needs to have a focus on **HIM!** As you think about your focus, where is God? God should not only be in focus in our lives, He should be the only focus, and then the rest of life becomes clear.

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HAGGAI 1:12- 2:9

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THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Haggai 1:12- 2:9 (NIV)

12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. 13 Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: "I am with you," declares the LORD. 14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of King Darius. Haggai 2 1 On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 2 "Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them,

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"And in this place I will grant peace..."

3 'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? , 4 But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD. 'Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty. 5 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.' 6 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. 7 I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. 8 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. 9 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty."

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

This week ask God to give you the peace He has specifically for you. Pray this week for those traveling that they will seek peace in the arms of God alone as they are separated from their families.

MESSAGE

Once Haggai tells the people of God's displeasure in their self-focus, they immediately respond and begin to rebuild the temple. Verse twelve shows one of the great mass turnarounds in history. After being told to change, we see "...the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God...And the people feared the Lord." What is great about this is that while they had been told why they were being punished, God had not yet told them of the reward for their obedience. They obeyed because of Haggai's

sermon (and their fear of God), yet God did have a reward for them. The reward is what they were truly seeking and what we seek: Peace. Peace can be found through God alone. In verse 11 we see that God grants peace in His temple. This is as true today as it was then. The only true peace we will find is that peace which God grants us. If we continue to seek peace in this world and in material things, we will continue to be in a drought. Once we seek God's peace, with Him we will have true peace in abundance.

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HAGGAI 2:10-23

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THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Haggai 2:10-23 (NIV)

10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Haggai: 11 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Ask the priests what the law says: 12 If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?' " The priests answered, "No." 13 Then Haggai said, "If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?" "Yes," the priests replied, "it becomes defiled." 14 Then Haggai said, " 'So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,' declares the LORD. 'Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled. 15 " 'Now give careful thought to this from this day on –consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the LORD's temple. 16 When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. 17 I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not turn to me,' declares the LORD. 18 'From this day on, from this twenty-fourth

day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid. Give careful thought: 19 Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. " 'From this day on I will bless you.' " 20 The word of the LORD came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month: 21 "Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I will shake the heavens and the earth. 22 I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother. 23 " 'On that day,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the LORD Almighty."

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

This week pray for the families at home who are missing their loved ones. Ask God to give them a special sense of oneness with Him. Pray that they too will understand how blessed they are to be chosen.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"...for I have chosen you,' declares the Lord Almighty."

MESSAGE

Man's perspective is out of focus; God reminds him of his need for Him alone; God grants him peace AND now gives him blessings. Verse 19 makes the joy complete as God tells the Israelites, "From this day on I will bless you." This short but powerful book gives us the full story of this jealous God we serve. He demands that we seek Him alone and worship only Him. He commands us to focus FIRST and ONLY

on Him and His work. Yet He brings us exactly what we are seeking at all times and in all places when we are seeking Him and doing His work. Then He blesses us in ways only He can. And why all of this? Because He has chosen us. What a great spot to be in: chosen. This week remind yourself that God did, in fact, choose YOU.