

THE BOOK OF Haggai

David Chadwick | Haggai 2:10-23 | November 24, 2024

Title: When God Says Something Twice

Thoughts on President Elect Trump two weeks out

1. He is not our Savior!
2. We need a national revival in the hearts of all Americans
3. To experience his supernatural blessings

Previously in Haggai:

- Fifty thousand Jews return from the Babylonian Captivity in 538 BC
- They had been in captivity for 70 years
- Their primary purpose in returning: to rebuild the razed temple in 586 BC
- They begin in 536 BC
- Thwarted by opposition - and it stayed incomplete for 16 years! They kept putting it off and off and off...
- Finally, God tells them in **Haggai chapter one** (two times): "Consider..." (**verses 5 and 7**)
- They are to consider why they weren't experiencing God's amazing, supernatural blessings
- God said it was because of their wrong priorities
- They aren't honoring him with their time, talents, treasures, and...the completing of the temple's reconstruction
- **God's promise:** If they did place him first and rebuilt the temple, there would be supernatural blessings
- Then the work on the temple recommences

Haggai 2:10

10 *On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet,*

- Three months later, after recommencing the rebuilding of the temple, the exact date is given: December 18, 520 BC
- Yet something continues to be wrong
- Another word from the Lord comes to Haggai for the people
- Haggai uses an illustration from the Law to make his point:

Haggai 2:11-14

11 *“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Ask the priests about the law: **12** ‘If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?’” The priests answered and said, “No.” **13** Then Haggai said, “If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?” The priests answered and said, “It does become unclean.” **14** Then Haggai answered and said, “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.*

1. If holy meat touches the garment, does it become holy?
 - The answer is “no”
 - Holiness produces holiness; health produces health; cleanliness produces cleanliness
2. If someone is unclean and touches a dead body, does it become unclean?
 - The answer is “yes”
 - Unholiness produces more unholiness; unhealthy produces more unhealthy; uncleanness produces uncleanness

The Lord’s point: the work of your hands is still unclean. Therefore, the work on the temple you’re now doing is unclean as well (not holy)

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.

- Haggai (from God) says again: “Consider” (a third time!)
- He asks them to think about this message from this day forward
- Especially when God says something twice, or in this case, three times!
- December 18, 520 BC: “Mark this date”
- You’re still not experiencing my supernatural blessings
- You’re just going through the religious motions, rebuilding the temple
- Your priorities are still wrong
- Your hearts aren’t primarily focused on God
- God wants your heart, not all your religious activities
- Emotion before motion

Haggai 2:18-19

18 Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. 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.”

- “Consider” (a FOURTH TIME in these verses) your priorities
- “From this day forward!” - mark this date (December 18, 516 BC) - from now on: Make sure God is first
- Haggai: Write it down so you can always remember when you made this decision:
 1. For those of you who will decide to follow Jesus today
 2. For those of you recommitting your lives to follow Jesus today
- November 24th, 2024 (11-24-24)
- God to the Jews: Don’t you see the seed is not in your barn? Nor are the vine, fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree giving abundance?

- “But from this day on, **I WILL BLESS YOU**” - This is the key
- God’s character/nature as a blessing
- **Matthew 7:7-11**
- Again, mark this date about a commitment to Jesus
- How does that look for us?
 1. **Time:** first thing in the morning and first day of the week worship
 2. **Talents:** God’s gifts to you, used first for God’s glory?
 3. **Treasures:** first fruits (not the leftovers) - the purpose of the tithe
- A year from now, see how much God has blessed you by placing God first in everything (from this date - what God was doing with the Jews in Haggai’s day)

A look to the future in the final verses: Haggai 2:20-23

- 26% of Bible is prophecy
- About one in every four verses

Haggai 2:20

20 *The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month,*

- A second word to Haggai from the Lord on the same day, December 18, 520 BC
- A clear connection between these two Scriptures

Haggai 2:21-22

21 *“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, **22** and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother.*

- One day, God will shake all the heavens and earth (the 7 Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments?)
- To prepare for the creation of the new heaven and new earth?

- All nations and their armies will be overthrown (The battle of Armageddon at the end of the Great Tribulation?)
- On that day: the day of the Lord
- Zerubbabel is given a signet ring: the ring of royal power
- Zerubbabel is God's servant and chosen...as is Jesus...
- Zerubbabel in the royal lineage of King David and King Jesus
- **Matthew 1:1,12-13**
1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham
12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,
- From the royal lineage of King David to Zerubbabel to King Jesus who will rule and reign over all the nations of the earth one day from the temple in Jerusalem
- "On that day..."
- Jesus defeats all enemies and judges all evil
- We who believe in him will rule and reign with him on earth in the new millennium

Application

- If God says something once in his Word, pay attention
- If God says something twice, really pay attention
- If God says something repeatedly, it's essential you pay attention

God says, "Consider" your ways in Haggai: repeated five times!

- Is Jesus first in your life? Your master passion?
- Are you only going through religious motions?
- Is this why you aren't experiencing God's blessing?
- Do you believe God is a blesser?

Solomon: Proverbs 3:5-6; 9-10

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.*

6 *In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.*

9 *Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your
produce; **10** then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will
be bursting with wine.*

Jesus: Matthew 6:33

33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all
these things will be added to you.*

Paul: 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

6 *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and
whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** Each one must
give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under
compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make
all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all
times, you may abound in every good work. **9** As it is written, “He has
distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures
forever.”*

- You can begin today!
- Write down today's date
- Make Jesus first in your life
- And let's see next year at this time if God's bountiful blessings have come to you

This is the only hope for America!