

BUILD FOR THE FUTURE Sunday School- June 8, 2014

Unifying Topic: TRUST GOD'S PROMISES

Lesson Text

I. The People Obey (Haggai 1:12)

II. Haggai Tells The People to "Be Strong" (Haggai 2:2-5)

III. The Desire Of All Nations will Come (Haggai 2:6-9)

The Main Thought: the glory of the latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts (Haggai 2:9, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Some communities find it difficult to begin a project that will benefit them. What motivates communities to get started on a new project? God promised to be with the people as they completed the task of rebuilding God's temple.

Lesson Aim: To help students understand that God's promises for the future are worth striving for.

Life Aim: To live a life in obedience to God to ensure we will be found faithful in God's sight and will reap the benefits of God's promises.

- 1:12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Hosedech, 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 did fear before the Lord.
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- 2:1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the Lord by the prophet Haggai, saying.
2:2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Sheatiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people saying,
2:3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?
2:4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts:
2:5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.
2:6 For thus saith the Lord of hosts; yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land.
2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations, shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.
2:8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.
2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.

HISTORY:

The people had said this was not the time to build the Lord's house (temple). The Lord sends the question through Haggai to them *"Is it time for you to live in luxurious homes, when the Temple lies in ruins?"* The Lord wanted the people to consider their ways because their priorities were messed up. He went back and explained it again. Their problem was that they hoped for much and got little. And the little they brought home, the Lord blew on it and it disappeared like chaff. Their concerns were their fine homes; their unconcern was the Temple that was laid in ruins. That's why the Lord really held back the heaven from giving the dew and the earth from yielding fruit. A drought came upon the land, the mountains, the corn, the vineyards, the olives, the cattle, and all that man and cattle could produce to get their attention. Once again nature and animals suffer because of man's sin. The only way the Lord would be pleased and glorified would be if they went to the mountain, brought the wood and started to build.

LESSON:

Haggai 1:12 The People Obey

1:12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Hosedech, 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 did fear before the Lord. ¹It took drastic measures, but they finally agreed that they had neglected the work of the Lord. One good thing can be said about the leader and the people: they had enough sense to listen to the messenger of God! On many occasions people have waited before they committed to following God again. Zerubbabel led the way, Joshua followed

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/haggai/01.html>

with him, and the people as well, followed. Haggai had convinced them, that God would not bless them, until they began building the Temple. They accepted Haggai's words as being the Words of the Lord, and they agreed to work on the temple. The fear of the LORD caused the people to do what Haggai said they must do, if they were to be blessed.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 13-15

In response to this obedience, the Lord sends a message of assurance to His people through the prophet. He says "**I Am With You.**" ²Once they had committed to the work, the Spirit of the LORD filled (was stirred) in them all (Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the remnant of people). The Spirit was a confirmation that the LORD was pleased with their decision. The Spirit gave them the strength to do the work. They were back in the game; they were back on track building the house of the Lord of hosts their God. So, the work began the sixth month in the second year of Darius; just 23 days after Haggai's first message. This was a quick response and really rare after a prophet's message. The people put their words into action. That's what we all should be doing when we hear a good sermon or read the Word of God: put it into action as the Lord leads.

Haggai 2:2-5 Haggai Tells The People to "Be Strong"

2:1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the Lord by the prophet Haggai, saying. Now it is the next month (the seventh month), the Lord speaks to the prophet Haggai again. In Leviticus 23:34 the Lord spoke to Moses declaring the fifteen day of the seventh month would be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days; after the seven days, the eighth day would begin the holy convocation (Lev.23:26). The whole period would be a time of Sabbath. This was an important month as God comes to Haggai again.

2:2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Sheatiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people saying,— This is Haggai's second message to Zerubbabel, the governor, Joshua the high priest, and those left in the land.

2:3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?— The Temple was not always in this condition. So the Lord asks them a question: "*Who in the midst can remember the temple as it was before?*" As they saw it now, it was not the same. He is making a comparison between the past temple of Solomon and the present Temple. ³The magnificent Temple in Solomon's time was far above anything else in the world at that time. The wealth of silver and gold in the temple was like the wealth of an entire country today. The wood used was the cedar of Lebanon. These people, who had been in captivity, could not amass such great wealth. By the second year of Darius reign, 70 years had passed since Solomon's Temple was destroyed. Ezra (Ez.3:8-13) confirms that at the laying of the foundation of the Temple, many of the priests, Levites, and chief men that had seen Solomon's Temple wept. Some that were very old had lived during that time. They were saddened by the fact they could not rebuild the wonderful temple that Solomon had built. Zerubbabel's Temple lacked five glories which were present in Solomon's Temple: 1) the Ark of the Covenant; 2) the Holy Fire; 3) the Shekinah Glory; 4) the Spirit of Prophecy (The Holy Spirit); and 5) the Urim and Thummim. No wonder the older men wept! How gracious of God to recognize their deep concern and grief.

2:4 Yet now be strong , O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts: — Though the difference between the two temples is evident and admitted, there is not cause for despair, nor excuse for not going on with the work. If anything, this was to encourage them to rely even more heavily on Jehovah, their God. ⁴God is not worried about the expensive items of the temple. God is more interested in their hearts desiring to build the temple. God is pleased with their effort. God is with them, and will help them. He says "*be strong O Zerubbabel; be strong O Joshua,* and He didn't leave out the people—" *be strong all ye people of the land.*" They had shown faith in God by starting the construction. All He asks is their

² <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/haggai/01.html>

³ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/haggai/02.html>

⁴ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/haggai/02.html>

loyalty, and their love. He does not need, or want, wealth. Everything on, and in, the earth belongs to Him already. God's approval gives them strength to go on. Jehovah gives them a threefold encouragement: 1) His Personal Presence (v.4). This means that Jehovah's presence must be present!

2:5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. God reminds them; brings back to their remembrance of the Covenant He had given them at Mount Sinai after they had come out of Egypt. They seem to have forgotten what God had done for them at the Red Sea. God had faithfully kept His Covenant with Israel! His past performance is a guarantee of His future performance. He assures them to not be fearful because His Spirit will remain with them. He gives 2) His Personal Commitment—to keep His promise to them (v.5). The Lord's Spirit represents mercy. When there is no one else, God will remain! Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon were all gone, but God's Spirit remains and therefore, fear will not comfort nor keep, them, but God will! It's good to revisit your past, but not stay there. God has so much more for our future!

Haggai 2:6-9 The Desire Of All Nations will Come

2:6 For thus saith the Lord of hosts; yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land.

The words, "...yet once" meant He had already shook the earth when He gave Moses the Law and "*it is a little while*" means at another time there will be a greater shaking than the earthquake. There will come a tremendous shaking that the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the dry land will go through. This may be just before Jesus sets up His kingdom, according to Matthew 24:29 *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:"* Also, Hebrews 12:26. This was a bigger picture the people had not seen but were told of. There would be 1) the coming Great Tribulation and 2) the future renovation of the heavens and earth by fire.

2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations, shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. When God promised to shake all the nations with His judgment, He was speaking of both present judgment on evil nations and future judgment during the last days. ⁵Before Christ's first advent there was a general shaking of empires. Persia fell; Alexander's dominion was divided and gradually shattered before the might of Rome; Rome herself was torn with civil wars. Ultimately the culmination will be the establishment of the kingdom of Jehovah on earth! All of God's activities in the heavens, the earth, the sea, the dry land, and the nations are moving toward one great end! Their desire will be toward the Deliverer Himself to come. The people of the world and all creation have had longings for this deliverance since the days of Adam. The house they were building, poor though it was, would bring blessings to all the people of the world, and the ultimate establishment of the earthly Davidic Millennium kingdom, for His glory will fill the Millennial Temple (Ezek.43:5). The shaking will have to come first. ⁶The Lord Jesus Christ, the very glory of Heaven itself, would walk the very grounds upon which they worked. They did not know it, but they were building the Temple that would greet Jesus one day! This is just a reminder that we never know what we are doing and how God will use our efforts for His glory in the future.

2:8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts. God is saying that if had He desired the silver and gold, He could have easily provided it because it all belonged to Him.

2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts. The important thing was not how the house that they were building compared with the former; rather, it was the place that this house would occupy in God's overall program. Verses 6-9 are the last of the threefold encouragement to them. 3) His Program of Judgment which will result in His filling this insignificant house with His Personal Peace (v.7). The latter shall be greater.

SUMMARY:

⁵ <http://biblehub.com/haggai/2-7.htm>

⁶ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/Haggai%202_1-9.htm

<http://pitwm.net-sundayschool.html>

Zerrubbabel, the governor; Joshua, the high priest; and the remnant or people in the land obeyed. They were firmly committed to build the temple. They began in just 23 days after Haggai first message. The first message came in the sixth month (1:12).

Now, it is the seventh month, in which Haggai the prophet speaks to them. He asks a question as to who is left that had seen the former temple in its glory and in comparison of how they see it now. They were not to be disillusioned or discouraged for their strength is always found in God, for God would be with them. He had already made a Covenant with them when they came out of Egypt. They had no need to fear because God's Spirit remains with them (2:1-5).

God says, yet once, referring to when He shook the mountain on Mt Sinai. If God did it once, He can do it again; In a little while, it's prophesized that He will shake the heavens, earth, sea, dry land, and the nations; and will lead to the desire to the Deliverer to come. God will fill the coming temple; the Millennial Temple with His Spirit. Silver and gold will be no problem for He owns it all. And they will see that the latter temple will far surpass the grandeur of the former temple of Solomon. The Lord of host will give peace in that latter temple. The new temple was only a shadow of the greater things that were to come. (2:6-9).

APPLICATION:

We are always building for the future. God shows that the latter will be greater than the former. Therefore, look forward to our future because our best is yet to come!