LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 March ................................................................. Nahum 1-3. Don't Mess with God
2) 08 March ................................................................. Zephaniah 1-2. Everyone is Accountable
3) 15 March ................................................................. Zephaniah 3. Our Great Salvation
4) 22 March ................................................................. Obadiah 1. Compassion for Lost People
5) 29 March ................................................................. Zechariah 1-12. The Promised Messiah
6) 05 April ................................................................. Luke 24:1-12. The Declaration
8) 19 April ................................................................. Zechariah 13-14. A Refined People
9) 26 April ................................................................. Habakkuk 1-2. Hard Questions, Hard Answers
10) 03 May ................................................................. Habakkuk 3. Awestruck
11) 10 May ................................................................. Haggai 1-2. Seek God First
12) 17 May ................................................................. Malachi 1. True Hope
13) 24 May ................................................................. Malachi 2. Faithful
14) 31 May ................................................................. Malachi 3-4. A Pure People

INTRODUCTION

- What hindered Temple work in Haggai’s day was not external opposition, but rather the people’s refusal to make the Lord’s house a priority
- How much of a priority should we give to our place of worship?
- Do we live under a Land Curse today? In others words, if we neglect God’s House or God’s word will we suffer individually and, possibly, on a national scale?
- Haggai’s prophecies occurred over a 4-month period
- As we saw in Ezra 4:1-5, 24, there was a 15 year delay caused by external persecution. Then God called Haggai to encourage the people to adjust their priorities and complete the Temple (Ezra 5:1-2), which they did in 4 years.
- Is God more concerned about a brick & mortar building – or the hearts of His people?

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<th>Passage</th>
<th>Excuses, Excuses</th>
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| Haggai 1:1-11 | - v4. God asked a rhetorical question, “Is it alright for you to dwell in nice homes while my house is in ruin?”
| (The 1st of 4 messages) | - God had to get all the people on the same page and get them to see things as He sees them
| | - vv5-7. “Consider Your Ways” – IOW, WAKE UP!!!
| | 1. You’ve worked hard, but nothing to show for it
| | 2. You eat & drink, but you’re still hungry & thirsty
| | 3. You don’t have enough to pay your bills
| | 4. It seems your little money doesn’t go too far
| | - So, what is wrong? Is it happenstance? Is it bad luck? Or is it the direct hand of God on our culture?
| | - v8. God says it’s time to “REBUILD MY TEMPLE”
| | - IOW, get your priorities straight (put God first), and God will reverse your downward spiral
| | - vv9-11. God, in essence, said “I put you into poverty because you have neglect my place of worship”
| | - I blow your money away.........................................HOW?
| | - I control the weather so your income would dry up
| | - Does this sound like a loving God who should be concerned about the welfare of His children or of a tyrannical God who’s only concerned about himself?
| | - Consider this: God made us in such a way that we cannot reach our full potential without putting Him first in every aspect of our life

1:12-15

Good Leaders Can Turn Bad Situations Around

- v12. Change often begins with the leaders. Encouragement and motivation are first exemplified in our leaders; in this case the civic and religious leaders led the way (Zerubbabel, the Governor; and Joshua, the High Priest)
- v14. Then God can “stir the spirit” of everyone to accomplish great things

Consider Your Circumstances to Discern God’s Will

- Matthew 6:33. Seek first the kingdom of God
- What is noticeable when a believer has put God first?
- What distracts us from giving God top priority?
- □ Opposition; □ Prosperity; □ Leisure time; □ Debt
- How do we discern between God’s discipline and judgment?

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Haggai 1:12</td>
<td>- Are the abnormal weather conditions we see today a sign from God to get right or else?</td>
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<td>Consider Things from God’s Perspective</td>
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<td>2:1-9</td>
<td>- vv2-3. God asked the leaders to take an honest look at their past and their present situation – and there is no comparison. The past seemed more glorious</td>
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<td>- vv4-5. BUT, God commands them to “take courage” and “work” and not to fear, “Tor I am with you”</td>
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<td>- Is this applicable for us today? Why or Why Not?</td>
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<td>- v9. AND God declares the future is very bright as the “latter glory of this new Temple will be greater than the former” – and true peace will be the end product</td>
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<td>- This could refer to Jesus walking through this temple about 500 years later, BUT, the “true peace” era possibly alludes to the Millennial Temple</td>
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2:10-19

God Smote His People Because of Their Neglect

- vv12-14. God uses an analogy of how holy objects become common objects, for His people are no longer holy |
- vv15-17. Prior to the people putting their hands to work, their labor produced very little fruit |
- vv18-19. HOWEVER, after the people gave attention to God, God promises to bless them from this day forward

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<td>2:20-23</td>
<td>- vv21-22. God is going to “shake the heavens and the earth” and “overthrow nations” – Possibly allusion to the Great Tribulation. This would give Jews HOPE</td>
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<td>- v23. Zerubbabel will be a signet ring – This is an allusion to the Messiah, possibly in the Millennial</td>
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CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Haggai’s message had an immediate effect. The people accepted it as God’s word, and within 24 hours work was underway
- We can also turn a downward spiral of despair into an upward spiral of great accomplishments by following the same course of action…Acknowledge God’s word, take courage, do not fear, and WORK – because God’s Spirit is still with us today.

NEXT WEEK: Malachi 1. Moving a relationship with someone from an acquaintance level to a close friendship demands a change in our level of commitment