

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 1-2.....The Promised Messiah
- 6) 05 April.....Luke 24:1-12.....The Declaration
- 7) 12 April.....Luke 24:19-35.....The Promise Fulfilled
- 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? Yes| No | Don't Know
- 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 building – or the hearts of His people?

Passage	Comments
2:1-9 (The 2nd message)	<p>Consider Things from God's Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv2-3. God asked the leaders to take an honest look at their past and their present situation – and there was no comparison. The past seemed more glorious. • vv4-5. BUT, God commands them to "take courage" and "work" and not to fear, for "I am with you" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is this applicable for us today? Why or Why Not? • v9. AND God declares the future is very bright for them as the "latter glory of this new Temple will be greater than the former" – and true peace will be the end product <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This could refer to Jesus walking through this temple about 500 years later, BUT, the "true peace" era possibly alludes to the Millennial Temple
2:10-19 (The 3rd message)	<p>God Smote His People Because of Their Neglect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 promised to bless them from that day forward
2:20-23 (The 4th message)	<p>There Comes a Day of Reward for the Hard Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv21-22. God is going to "shake the heavens and the earth" and "overthrow nations" – Possible allusion to the Great Tribulation. This would give Jews HOPE. • v23. Zerubbabel will be a signet ring. This is an allusion to the Messiah, possibly in the Millennial Reign of Christ.

Passage	Comments
Haggai 1:1-11 (The 1 st of 4 messages)	<p>Excuses, Excuses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. God asked a rhetorical question, "<i>Is it alright for you to dwell in nice homes while my house is in ruin?</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God had to get all the people on the same page and get them to see things as He sees them • vv5-7. "<i>Consider Your Ways</i>" – IOW, WAKE UP!!! <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You've worked hard, but have 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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 neglected my place of worship" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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 so we cannot reach our full potential without putting Him first in every aspect of our life.
1:12-15	<p>Good Leaders Can Turn Bad Situations Around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>Consider Your Circumstances to Discern God's Will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Opposition; <input type="checkbox"/> Prosperity; <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure time; <input type="checkbox"/> Debt • How do we discern between God's discipline and judgment? • Are the severe storms, drought, earthquakes, fires we see today just happenstance or are they a sign from God to get right or else? 	

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

