



Part 5: You've Lost Hope

Setting for Haggai: *From High Hopes to Pessimistic Indifference!*

- 600 B.C.: Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem, completely destroys city & temple
- Jews captured, hauled to Babylon where they endure slavery for 70 long years!!
- After 70 years in exile the Jews return
- Arrive to find the city in ruins – temple destroyed – walls broken down
- They begin work first on the temple – (then stopped for 15 years)
- God raises up sharp, no-nonsense prophet for these discouraged, apathetic people
- Haggai delivered four messages, all in a 1-year period

Structure of Haggai				
Message	Purpose	Reference	Timing	Promise
1st	Arouse	1:1-15	6 months, 1 day	"Build the House"
2nd	Support	2:1-9	7 mos, 21 days	"I am with you"
3rd	Encourage	2:10-19	9 mos, 24 days	"I will bless you"
4th	Assure	2:20-23	9 mos, 24 days	"I have chosen you"

I. What's Holding You Back? *5 Reasons People Get STUCK Spiritually*

S _____
 "My house lies desolate while each of you runs to his own house." Haggai 1:9

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored... You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?... Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on ...whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands.'" Haggai 1:7-11

T _____
 "Is it time for you to dwell in your paneled house while this house lies desolate?" 1:4

"Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 'Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin? ...Give careful thought to your ways. 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.'" 1:3-6

U _____
 "... 'And yet you did not come back to Me,' declares the Lord.'" Haggai 2:17

C _____
 "This people says, 'The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt.'" Haggai 1:2

K _____
 "Who is left who saw this temple in its former glory? And how does it seem to you now? Does it seem to you like nothing in comparison?" Haggai 2:3

II. Lessons in Haggai: *3 Steps for Breaking Free and Moving Forward*

1. A Call to _____ "Be strong!"
 "... '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? 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. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And My Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'" Haggai 2:3-5

2. A Call to _____ "and work!"
 "Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 'Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?'" Haggai 1:3-4

"... 'Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And My Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'" Haggai 2:4-5

3. A Call to _____ "for I am with you!"
 "... 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst, do not fear!'" Haggai 2:5

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"On that day... I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you", declares the Lord Almighty." Haggai 2:23

Monday

Look over the outline from this past weekend. Have you ever experienced any of the five causes for spiritual doldrums in your life? Which ones? What helped you out of it?

Which of the five causes for spiritual doldrums, if any, are you going through right now?

Ask God to help you listen to His voice today, showing you how to escape your spiritual doldrums and get closer to Him!

Tuesday

A phrase that comes up again and again in Haggai is "give careful thought to your ways..." (1:5, 1:7, 2:15, 2:18). Most of us know there is an area to which we have neglected to "give careful thought". What is it in your life?

Spend some time today giving "careful thought" to whatever it may be for you. Ask the Lord to show you Bible verses relating to this.

Ask God to guide you as you give careful thought to this area of your life.

Wednesday

In Haggai 2:3-5, there are three "calls". Which do you need to hear most right now in your life? Why?

What do you think God is calling you to "work" for (the second call)? Is there a person or a ministry he is calling you to?

What has prevented you from doing this in the past?

Ask God today specifically for the strength and will to finish the ministry to which he has called you.

Thursday

Several times in Haggai, God says, "I am with you." This is repeated throughout Scripture, including passages like Joshua 1:1-9. Read that passage now. How does it make a difference for you to know that God is with you?

Think of a situation you are going to be in today where you need to know God is with you. Ask God to let you have that assurance of His presence.

Friday

One problem the Israelites grappled with in Haggai was procrastination. Does this ever dog your life? How does this effect your ministry, or future ministry opportunities? A related issue: lack of perseverance, or follow-through. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What do these verses teach about following through on commitments made to God?

Today ask God to help you overcome any tendencies to procrastination or lack of follow-through.

Saturday

Today's your chance to memorize this week's Bible verse if you haven't already. Please pray for the weekend services— that they might honor our great God and reach people with the Good News of God's transforming grace!