

Haggai

Twelve Lessons from the Minor Prophet

July 15, 2015

Reason for the Study

- Five subjects are pressing for preaching tonight.
- One-chapter-a-day program for today is Haggai 1.
- Simplicity and breadth of material in a short book.
- Lessons practical and spiritual that challenge all.
- The glory of Jesus Christ is the preeminent theme.

Overview of Minor Prophet

- Minor prophets are 12 from Hosea to Malachi.
- He was to stir up the rebuilding Jews (Ezra 5:1; 6:14).
- They returned, built their houses, but not His.
- Cyrus charged them to build Jehovah a house.
- They neglected God and His worship for difficulty.

Lesson #1 - Ignore Difficulties!

Haggai 1

- 1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,*
- 2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.*

Lesson #1 - Ignore Difficulties!

- Fifteen years after returning ... *thus saith the LORD!*
- The Jews were saying it was not yet time to build.
- They had run into opposition, and they were poor.
- They were not gaining financially for some reason.
- Absolutely nothing matters but your obedience!

Lesson #2 - Right Priorities!

Haggai 1

4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Lesson #2 - Right Priorities!

- God heard the Jews' excuse that it was not time.
- God saw the Jews' finished homes but no temple.
- Their difficulties did not impress Him to mercy.
- God sees your priorities very clearly. Beware!
- Consider your losing ways for any compromise.

Lesson #3 - Compromise Costs!

Haggai 1

6 *Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.*

7 *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.*

Lesson #3 - Compromise Costs!

- Though working hard, they were getting behind.
- Nothing worked right, for God opposed them.
- If God is against you, for any reason, you will lose!
- His chastening can affect you many different ways.
- Consider your losing ways for any compromise.

Lesson #4 - God is Easy!

Haggai 1

8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

Lesson #4 - God Is Easy!

- God did not ask for marble, gold, precious stones.
- He asked for wood ... but more their movement!
- He despises ease and sloth ... He honors actions.
- Make your goal God's pleasure and His glory.
- "Delight" and "first" bring all needs and desires!

Lesson #5 - Your Heart!

Haggai 1

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, 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.

13 Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.

Lesson #5 - Your Heart!

- They obeyed the LORD and His prophet.
- They chose to improve their fear of the LORD.
- They admitted His hand in their just chastening.
- God immediately responded to their obedience.
- Having God with you starts with your obedience!

Lesson #6 - Spirit Power!

Haggai 1

14 And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

15 In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

Lesson #6 - Spirit Power!

- God then stirred up the spirits of rulers & people.
- If you obey, He will give more strength (Ps 27:14).
- Disobedience grieves and quenches Spirit (Eph 4:30).
- God will be with you in more than word only!
- Like a parent, He gives help to obedient children.

Lesson #7 - Ignore Prestige!

Haggai 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?*
- 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:*

Lesson #7 - Ignore Prestige!

- God knew their awareness of temple inferiority.
- There was shouting and weeping by age (Ezra 3:10-13).
- Zechariah ... *do not despise small things* (Zech 4:10).
- God promised to be with them – the key to all!
- If God is with us ... size or numbers are irrelevant.

Lesson #8 - Glorify Christ!

Haggai 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;*
- 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.*

Lesson #8 - Glorify Christ!

- God gave a prophecy of great religious upheaval.
- The DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS was Jesus at temple.
- Zerubbabel's temple saw the greatest glory ever!
- Believe His prophecies that determine real value.
- Make Jesus Christ the center and purpose of all!

Lesson #9 - Salvation Reigns!

Haggai 2

- 8 *The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.*
- 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.*

Lesson #9 - Salvation Reigns!

- God already owned all the silver, gold, and things.
- This latter house had greater glory than the former.
- God made peace in this temple by Christ and veil.
- Salvation by Jesus trumps any church building.
- We must keep Jesus Christ crucified preeminent.

Lesson #10 - Holy Separation!

Haggai 2

12 *If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.*

13 *Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.*

Lesson #10 - Holy Separation!

- A rule of God's law polluted the Jews' worship.
- Their worship was ruined by their sin (Pr 15:8; 28:9).
- Obedience from the heart is what counts to Him.
- Ceremonial worship by itself is profane (Is 66:1-3).
- Making it to church without right is a great evil.

Lesson #11 - Mark Calendars!

Haggai 2

18 Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider it.

19 *Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you.*

Lesson #11 - Mark Calendars!

- They were to mark calendars looking back (2:15-17).
- Then marked the calendars looking forward (2:18-19).
- With no visible prospect, God promised blessing!
- If you repent and get zealous, mark your calendar!
- “Delight” and “first” bring all needs and desires!

Lesson #12 - Jesus Reigns!

Haggai 2

22 And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

23 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.

Lesson #12 - Jesus Reigns!

- God prophesied of Christ's kingdom by Zerubbabel.
- The God of heaven has set up a kingdom in Jesus!
- It will destroy all others to last forever (Dan 2:44).
- You are part of this kingdom by faith and baptism!
- But the king has warned you tonight by 12 lessons!

12 Lessons

from Haggai

Ignore Difficulties

Ignore Prestige

Right Priorities

Glorify Christ

Compromise Costs

Salvation Reigns

God Is Easy

Holy Separation

Heart Matters

Mark Calendars

Spirit Power

Jesus Reigns