

STORM WARNINGS!
#9 – HAGGAI: HAVE GOD’S PRIORITIES
HAGGAI 1 & 2

I. The Past of God’s People Explained (background)

- *Continual sin brings God’s _____* – Judah defeated by the Babylonians in 586 BC, but it was God that caused them to fall. Why? Continual disobedience and unrighteousness – contempt for God. (II Kings 25)
- *God’s grace gives _____ chances* – Jews were allowed back in 538 BC by Persians under Cyrus. (Ezra 1:5)
- *When working for God, we often start strong, but _____ later.* Temple work was started 536 BC, but not completed because Samaritan opposition made it hard and inconvenient. The Jews’ personal lives became the priority. (Ezra 3)

This is what the Lord Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come for the Lord’s house to be built.’” 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?” ... So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God.

Haggai 1:2-4, 14

II. The Priority of God Commanded

- *God’s work is to be done in _____ time, not our own.* God spoke to the Jews on August 29, 520 BC and said the time is now! The window of opportunity doesn’t stay open indefinitely.
- *The prophet? A nobody named Haggai, over 70 years old, not a younger, famous, _____ leader.*
- *But our own personal agenda often _____ God’s agenda.* The people were saying not yet, because of self-centered concern for their own prosperity – “the paneled houses”.
- *The call? To build _____ house – the temple.* Today, God’s house is His kingdom:
 - 1) *The Physical Spiritual House – the _____* - our focus of group identity and group service to God.
 - Our worship
 - Our outreach to the world
 - Our ministry through the church
 - 2) *Our Personal Spiritual House – our own spiritual development and _____.*
 - Our giving
 - Our discipleship
 - Our personal ministry
- *Today God is less concerned about buildings, and more concerned about building _____ spiritually, for we are God’s temple.* (I Corinthians 3:16)
- *Jesus confirms to us the process of God’s provision and blessing: first seek God’s _____, then our needs will be provided.* (Matthew 6:33)

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "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... You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "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 the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands." Haggai 1:5-6, 9-11

III. The Providence of God Withheld

- **The people worked harder, only to see _____ return.**
- **What they did have, with it they were not _____.**
- **Why? Because of the people's priorities and attitudes, God _____ His blessings, both physical and spiritual.**

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," says the Lord. ... "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." This is what the Lord Almighty says: "In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory," says the Lord Almighty. "The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine," declares the Lord Almighty. "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house," says the Lord Almighty. "And in this place I will grant peace," declares the Lord Almighty. Haggai 1:7-8, 2:4-9

IV. The Plan for God's House Given

- **It is _____ Who determines His plan, not us.** When we carry out His plans, He takes pleasure in it and is honored.
- **The steps outlined:**
 - 1) _____ your life, your actions. (vs. 7)
 - 2) _____ a God-inspired, God-directed action plan. (vs. 8)
 - 3) _____ whole-heartedly with enthusiasm. (vs. 12)
 - 4) **God will be with you, _____ and inspire you.** (1:13-14)
 - 5) **God will _____ the resources, because He owns everything, and often these resources will be given by us.** (2:8)
- **God's _____ will be displayed through our efforts** (2:9).
- **Note: "The desired"** (in vs. 7) refers to the coming of Christ to the temple some 550 years later – a Messianic prophecy. (Hag. 2:6 – Heb. 12:26-27)

Do you have God's priorities?

Are you building the house of the Lord?

Answers: I. Judgment; second; quit. II. God's; charismatic; crowds out; God's; Church; ministry; us; kingdom. III. Less; content; withheld. IV. God; evaluate; formulate; respond; strengthen; provide; glory.