**Haggai 1,2**

“In my Fathers House!”

1. **Intro:**
   1.1. We are now Post Babylonian exile.
      1.1.1. During the exile Daniel & Ezekiel wrote (no minor prophets).
      1.1.2. Now we have 3 minor prophets that write after words (Haggai, Zech, & Malachi...which are the only one’s in chronological order).
      1.1.3. The 1st group went back to the land (50,000). [538 bc] Cyrus of Persia issued a decree allowing them to return.
   1.2. Judah’s wings had been clipped in Babylon!
      1.2.1. Ps.74:1,10,19 “O God, why have You cast us off forever?... O God, how long will the adversary reproach?... Oh, do not deliver the life of Your turtledove to the wild beast! Do not forget the life of Your poor (afflicted) forever.”
   1.3. God had always planned to restore his people to their land.
      1.3.1. Jer.29:10,11 “For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
   1.4. When the 1st 50,000 returned to Jerusalem, they built the altar, offered sacrifices, laid the foundation for the temple...but then they left it unfinished for 15 years!
      1.4.1. Originally they were stopped by their enemies (read Ezra 1-6)
   1.5. Book layout:
      1.5.1. Haggai is made up of 4 sermonettes in a period of 4 months.
         1.5.1.1. Ch.1 is sermon #1; 2:1-9 is #2; 2:10-19 is #3; 2:20-23 is #4.
   1.6. Haggai – Hag=festival. (Latin/Festus!)
      1.6.1. So possibly he was born on one of their festivals?
      1.6.2. His purpose – to be a cheerleader to get the Temple built!

2. **BUILD GODS HOUSE! (Ch.1)**
   2.1. **Sermon #1 (1:1-15)**
   2.2. Motivation – Q: What are some ways to motivate someone?
      2.2.1. I remember when Mical was a toddler we could motivate her to eat just about anything if we just added a little Ranch Dressing on it.
2.2.2. **Haggai** needed to motivate them to get back on the job, & to keep them working...till the job was finished!

2.3. (2) The excuse!
2.3.1. Excuses always have some merit to them. - In this case crops would still have to be harvested after the 6th month.

2.4. (4) Their personal affairs interferes w/Gods business!
2.4.1. We might fall into the same trap today. Is there anything wrong normally with building a home? No! – But if we, in any way, allow God to become #2...then we have a problem!

2.4.2. The theme of this book could be to "**Put 1st things 1st!**"

2.4.3. **Paneled Houses** – You might think wood, for less expensive houses; & stone for more expensive homes.
   2.4.3.1. But in the hills of Judah, stones were cheap & wood was a precious commodity!

2.5. (5) Consider – Haggai’s recipe for reflection! (1:5, 7; 2:15, 18)

2.6. (6) Are you satisfied? – "**Dissatisfied** can become the divine doorway to deeper things."

2.7. (9-11) God may allow **bad things** to happen so that we turn from **bad things**.
   2.7.1. Q: What seem to be God’s options with us in aiding us to turn from wicked ways? {chastisement or blessings}
      2.7.1.1. Q: What would you say is the quickest way? (Then is He wrong to use it?)

2.7.2. As we were reminded at the couples Valentine dinner, “You never lose when you put God 1st in your life!”

2.7.3. Play on words in Hebrew:
   2.7.3.1. In ruins/Harev(9); Drought/Horev(11).

2.8. (12) 23 days after the 1st sermonette they took specific steps to implement God’s message.
   2.8.1. Nor prophet saw a faster response to his message than did Haggai!

   2.8.2. Francis de Sales, “The test of a preacher is that his congregation goes away saying, not “what a lovely sermon!” but, “I will do something!”

   2.8.3. He is also known as “the prophet that said it w/bricks!”
3. **COMING GLORY IN GODS HOUSE!** *(Ch.2)*

3.1. **Sermon #2** (2:1-9)

3.2. (1) Last day of the “Feast of Tab.”…a Jewish Thanksgiving of sorts.

3.3. (3) Only those over 70 could remember the glory of the former temple.

3.3.1. Ezra 3:8-13 talks about the younger rejoicing & the older weeping.

3.3.2. Here he addresses the older that remember.

3.4. **Temples:**

3.4.1. **Solomons** – David’s Heart to build God a home. Destroyed by Neb.(586bc)at destruction of Jer.

3.4.2. **Zerubbabels** – Completed & dedicated(516bc). Desecrated in 169bc by Antiochus Epiphanes.

3.4.3. **Herod’s** – Actually a restoration of Zer. Built from 19bc-to nearly complete inad70. Destroyed then. Since then no phys Temple.

3.4.4. **Present Temple** – In the heart of the believer. “your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you,”; “you are the temple of the living God.”

3.4.5. **Temple of Rev.11** – Will be constructed during the Trib. Desecrated by Anti-Christ. Destroyed at end of trib.

3.4.6. **Millennium Temple** – Ezek.40-42 gives the details. The builder the Messiah Himself.

3.4.7. **Eternal Temple** – Rev.21:22 No temple in New Jer. because Lord God Almighty & the Lamb are its Temple!

3.4.8. (9) So, His Glory is greater in this one(actually the remodel) Why?

Because the incarnate one visits it personally!

3.5. **Sermon #3** (2:10-19)

3.6. (12-14) A healthy person can’t impart health upon a sick person. A holy person can’t pass on his holiness to another. However, a sinful person can pass on their sin!

3.6.1. “You can have a muddy glove, but not a glovey mud!”

3.6.2. The people’s offerings were only as valid as the character of the offerers!

3.6.3. Though they were engaged in work in a holy place(temple)that did not of itself make them holy.

3.7. (15-19) When more turns out to be less…we need to “take a look” at interrogating ourselves!

3.7.1. Some of you interrogate too far & too much…some never do!
3.7.2.  **Note:** When adversity knocks we can't automatically assume that we are out of sync w/God!...but we may be, & so we examine! (spiritual autopsys)

3.7.3.  (16) Here was a **farmer** standing there guessing he'll net 20 measures of grain, only ends up w/10.
   3.7.3.1. The person trampling grapes in the wine vat thinks, "I'll get 50 measures",…only winds up w/20.

3.7.4.  (17) **God's Jack-hammer!**¹ – Blasting away to get his people's attention!

3.8.  **Sermon #4** (2:20-23)

3.9.  The same day as the 3rd sermon. [only 4 months all together of prophetic ministry we know off!]
   3.9.1.  The theme… “A whole lot of shaken going on!”
   3.9.2.  There was the international shake-up in vs.7.
   3.9.3.  And now, not only **earthquakes** but heaven-quakes!

3.10.  (23) **Signet ring!**
   3.10.1.  See Jer.22:24 for a contrast.
      3.10.1.1. This is Jehoiachin (Zerubbabel's grandfather)
   3.10.2.  This was especially made ring worn by the king that served as his **official signature** on documents.
      3.10.2.1. What a **branding iron** is to our western cattle owners.
   3.10.3.  For Zerubbabel he was encouraged “you are safe on God's hand!”
      3.10.3.1. I dare you...take the ring off God's finger!
      3.10.3.2. He also had the seal of God’s promise to provide a future **Messiah** from David’s line!
         3.10.3.2.1. In fact he is in both lineages because it “Y's” off at his name thus being in both Mary & Josephs family tree!
   3.10.4.  It speaks then of **ownership** but also your signature represents **who you are**!
      3.10.4.1. To use someone else’s signature is fraud…unless you are given power of attorney!

¹ Jim Townsend; The Minor Prophets; pg.68
3.10.4.2. The Power of Attorney – “...authorizes the named agent to act on behalf of the signer in any legal circumstance.”

3.10.4.3. “People will give another person power of attorney when they are ill or for other reasons are unable to conduct their own affairs, or when they are absent from home or business for a long period of time.”

3.10.4.4. Jesus said he would be physically absent for a time, but promised to return (Jn.14). In the meanwhile we are to “do business on His behalf” until His return!

3.10.4.5. Saints, He has made us also His signet ring/his seal...because He chose us also!

3.10.4.5.1. Eph.1:13,14 “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

3.10.4.6. You are valued; you are God's signature; you are precious to Him!

3.10.5. Hear these promises! - “I am with you”; “in this place I will give peace”; “from this day I will bless you”; “I have chosen you”.

3.10.5.1. These promises remain for anyone today who put their priorities in order. (Obed. necessary in the NT?)

3.10.5.2. Mt.6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

3.10.5.3. Jn.15:10a “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love,”

3.10.5.4. Jn.15:14 “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”

3.10.5.5. Putting God 1st is here to stay!

3.10.6. Augustus Toplady (Anglican Hymn Writer 1740-1778; wrote “Rock of Ages”) – In the hymn “A Debtor to Mercy Alone”:

3.10.7. My name from the palms of His hands - Eternity will not erase Impressed on His heart it remains - In marks of indelible grace.

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2 Encarta® 98 Desk Encyclopedia © & ™ 1996-97 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
3 Chuck Swindoll; pg.95