

Haggai: It's Time to Build the Lord's House

A prominent theme in the book of Haggai is the urgency of building the _____. What is the Lord's house? Many people believe the Lord's house is the church facility. Does the church need to build the Lord's house by constructing another facility? The _____ isn't the Lord's house. The true house of God is believers. In 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Paul said, "*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*" God is building His church. His church isn't a building; it's _____. In Haggai's day, the Lord's house was the temple. And God's people struggled to build the temple.

God's people spent seventy years in Babylonian captivity. God led His people back to Jerusalem. However, they found the _____ in ruins, the _____ broken down, and the _____ in shambles. People started to work and rebuild the temple. The foundation was constructed. Then the work began to slow down. Work stopped altogether for many years. It was at this point that God called and raised up Haggai to speak. It's heartbreaking to see new believers engaged in the church's ministry, only to become less involved and finally unengaged completely. God always speaks when His work is being _____.

The book of Haggai is about God's work and _____. God's people gave multiple excuses because work stopped on the Lord's house. What excuses do we give for not doing God's work?

- Lack _____
- Troubled _____
- Busy _____
- Personal _____
- Insufficient _____
- Confused _____
- Unbiblical _____

Haggai stated people's first excuse by saying, "*These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord*" (Hag. 1:2). Did ____ say it wasn't time? In John 6, Jesus asked His _____ about feeding thousands of people. His disciples hesitated and gave credible excuses (at least from their perspective). "Lord, we don't have enough money or enough food." It's possible for people to give excuses. However, God always has the final word. God confronted His people about their _____. God asked, "*Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins*" (Hag. 1:4)? God said that His people put their own affairs first and His work second. It's troubling (and disobedient) when believers put their _____, _____, and _____ before what God desires.

Consequences followed the decisions of God's people. What was God trying to do or

teach His people? God asked His people to “*consider their ways.*” God talked about _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____. God wanted His people to wake up. God knows our every need. What does He expect from you and me? In Mt. 6:33, Jesus said, “*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*” Do you and I need to wake up? Are we seeking God’s kingdom first? Is God pleased with our involvement in His work?

Work on the temple started again in Haggai 2. Excitement was in the air; people were involved; and progress was being made. Then _____ and _____ came to the people. What happened next? Work on the temple stopped again. _____ gripped the people’s hearts. What did God say to His people?

- People were to _____.
- God was _____ them.
- God’s _____ was greater than silver or gold.
- God fulfilled His _____.
- God gave His people _____.

Work on God’s temple started again. It lasted for a season and then _____ again. What happened this time? People wanted instant results; people didn’t know exactly what to do; and people were asking hard questions. Do we want instant results? What do we do when we’re not sure what to do? Do we ever ask hard questions? As we do God’s work, let’s remember what Paul said in Gal. 6:9. He said, “*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*”

In Hag. 2:19, God said, “*Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you.*” As we do God’s work, we need to stay focused and not give up. _____ will come on God’s time, not ours. Time is of the essence to do God’s work. We need to work while it is day. Night is coming when no one shall work. It’s time to do the following with total surrender:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

God’s people always need to be aware of the following truths and emotions.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Haggai: It's Time to Build the Lord's House

A prominent theme in the book of Haggai is the urgency of building the **Lord's house**. What is the Lord's house? Many people believe the Lord's house is the church facility. Does the church need to build the Lord's house by constructing another facility? The **church facility** isn't the Lord's house. The true house of God is believers. In 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Paul said, "*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*" God is building His church. His church isn't a building; it's **baptized believers**. In Haggai's day, the Lord's house was the temple. And God's people struggled to build the temple.

God's people spent seventy years in Babylonian captivity. God led His people back to Jerusalem. However, they found the **city** in ruins, the **walls** broken down, and the **temple** in shambles. People started to work and rebuild the temple. The foundation was constructed. Then the work began to slow down. Work stopped altogether for many years. It was at this point that God called and raised up Haggai to speak. It's heartbreaking to see new believers engaged in the church's ministry, only to become less involved and finally unengaged completely. God always speaks when His work is being **neglected**.

The book of Haggai is about God's work and **excuses**. God's people gave multiple excuses because work stopped on the Lord's house. What excuses do we give for not doing God's work?

- Lack **education**
- Troubled **past**
- Busy **schedules**
- Personal **fear**
- Insufficient **experience**
- Confused **priorities**
- Unbiblical **thinking**

Haggai stated people's first excuse by saying, "*These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord*" (Hag. 1:2). Did **God** say it wasn't time? In John 6, Jesus asked His **followers** about feeding thousands of people. His disciples hesitated and gave credible excuses (at least from their perspective). "Lord, we don't have enough money or enough food." It's possible for people to give excuses. However, God always has the final word. God confronted His people about their **priorities**. God asked, "*Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins*" (Hag. 1:4)? God said that His people put their own affairs first and His work second. It's troubling (and disobedient) when believers put their **comforts, schedules, and plans** before what God desires.

Consequences followed the decisions of God's people. What was God trying to do or teach His people? God asked His people to "*consider their ways.*" God talked about **shelter**, **work**, **food**, **clothes**, and **wages**. God wanted His people to wake up. God knows our every need. What does He expect from you and me? In Mt. 6:33, Jesus said, "*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*" Do you and I need to wake up? Are we seeking God's kingdom first? Is God pleased with our involvement in His work?

Work on the temple started again in Haggai 2. Excitement was in the air; people were involved; and progress was being made. Then **criticism** and **comparison** came to the people. What happened next? Work on the temple stopped again. **Discouragement** gripped the people's hearts. What did God say to His people?

- People were to **work**.
- God was **with** them.
- God's **glory** was greater than silver or gold.
- God fulfilled His **promises**.
- God gave His people **peace**.

Work on God's temple started again. It lasted for a season and then **stopped** again. What happened this time? People wanted instant results; people didn't know exactly what to do; and people were asking hard questions. Do we want instant results? What do we do when we're not sure what to do? Do we ever ask hard questions? As we do God's work, let's remember what Paul said in Gal. 6:9. He said, "*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*"

In Hag. 2:19, God said, "*Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you.*" As we do God's work, we need to stay focused and not give up. **Results** will come on God's time, not ours. Time is of the essence to do God's work. We need to work while it is day. Night is coming when no one shall work. It's time to do the following with total surrender:

- **Worship**
- **Disciple**
- **Evangelize**
- **Fellowship**
- **Minister**
- **Go**
- **Pray**

God's people always need to be aware of the following truths and emotions.

- **Priorities**
- **Discouragement**
- **Results**
- **Perseverance**