

HAGGAI : Kingdom Perspective

Study 1: Priorities in Perilous Times

READ Ezra 1:1-5:1 and Haggai 1:1-15 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

After 50 years of captivity under Babylonian control, God freed the Israelites. He commissioned them to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem so God's glory might be re-established among the nations. Yet, after opposition and competing priorities, work ceased. God raised up the prophet Haggai to motivate God's people to have God's kingdom in perspective and rebuild more than they could ever imagine.

Big idea: God calls His church to prioritize the expansion of God's glory over other competing priorities.

Structure:	1:1-15 (Aug 29 520BC):	Haggai's first message
	2:1-9 (Oct 17 520BC):	Haggai's second message
	2:10-19 (Dec 18 520BC):	Haggai's third message
	2:20-23 (Dec 18 520BC):	Haggai's fourth message

Questions:

1. Read Ezra 1:1-5:1 & Haggai 1:2. Why do you think the people believed it was not time to rebuild God's house? Do you believe such reasons were valid?

How can you come to the same conclusion as to why it is not time to prioritize God's kingdom in your life at this time? Do you think those reasons are valid?

2. From vv. 4-6, what were the people doing and how did they fare? What did the Lord call the people to do (vv. 5 & 7)?

From v. 9, why were the people experiencing much difficulty?

3. What was the remedy for the people's disobedience (v. 8)? How was it that by rebuilding the temple, God would be glorified? Why is indifference to God's glory so dangerous?
4. Think about the purpose of the temple. Why will there be no need for a temple in the new heavens and new earth (Rev 21:22)?
5. Which people responded to the Lord's message and what was their response (v. 12)? Why is this significant?
6. What was the Lord's response to the people's obedience (vv. 13-14)? What do you think this means? How did the people respond to this action of the Lord?
7. What are the most significant lessons you learn from Haggai regarding how and why we must re-orientate our priorities toward building God's kingdom and not our own? What practical steps will you take to do this?

STOP AND PRAY:

Confess: your lukewarmness to the Lord's priorities in your life

Praise: the Lord for making Himself known through the person and work of Christ

Pray: that the Lord might stir up your spirit for His work and His glory