

# HAGGAI : Kingdom Perspective

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## Study 3: Putting Holiness before Service

**READ** Haggai 2:10-19 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

As the people of God returned to building the temple, a critical error crept in: they began to believe that because they were building something holy, it made them holy and entitled to God's blessings. God had to correct their theological misunderstandings. For a third time He sent the prophet Haggai, this time to teach them that building holy temples does not make holy hearts and holy hands. First they had to humbly render their hearts to the Lord before they rendered their hands to His work.

**Big idea:** Only the gospel liberates us from the error of works-based righteousness, moving us toward grace-fuelled obedience.

### Questions:

1. How long after the last message from Haggai is this message (v. 10)?
2. The overarching characteristic of God is His holiness. What do you think it means that "God is Holy" (Isaiah 6:3; 43:15)? What does it mean when God calls His people to "Be Holy for I am Holy" (Lev 11:44; 1 Pet 1:14-16)?
3. In vv. 11-13 the Lord gave two illustrations from Levitical Law. What were these two rulings (Lev 6:27, 21:11; Num 19:11) and how did the priest answer?
4. The first illustration shows that a person cannot become holy or get in favour with God by touching holy things (the temple) or serving a Holy God (building the temple). Why do you think this is the case?

What are some things people think will make them holy or right with God?

5. The second illustration shows that our uncleanness taints all our efforts to become holy and please God. This is the conclusion of verse 14. Everything is unclean. How can someone become clean? Use outside verses to answer.
6. How does vv. 15-17 show the result of Israel's unclean lives?

What are some of the ramifications for those who continue to walk in sin even though they have expressed faith in Jesus? See James 4:3; Ps 66:18; Isaiah 59:2

7. Ravi Zacharias said, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." Does this describe your experience? If so, would you share with your group why?

What must a believer do in this situation? See 1 John 1:5-9 and Prov 28:13.

8. What is God's promise to those who would repent of their sin and turn to God (v. 19)? What do you think this blessing looks like (John 15:5)?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Confess:** any hidden sin you have in your life and do not try to conceal it

**Thank:** Christ for removing all those sins that have been confessed

**Pray:** that you might abide in Christ and bear much spiritual fruit in your life