

BUILDING CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Haggai 1:1-2:9

READ Haggai 1:1-2:9 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig's [sermon](#).

Opposition and competing priorities led the returning remnant of Israel to halt rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. God sent His prophet Haggai to warn the exiles of the need to finish what they had begun. After an initial burst of effort, discouragement set in, so God sent His prophet again to encourage the people, reminding them that their work was only a glimpse of the greater glory to come when Christ fulfils the temple's purpose.

Main Lesson: God calls His people to prioritise His work, knowing that every form of service will be used to build His kingdom beyond belief.

Questions:

1. What time period is Haggai written in and what other books relate?
2. What is the main problem with the people that Haggai addresses and why do you think the people stopped rebuilding the temple? See Ezra 1-4.
3. A. What were the people doing instead of rebuilding the temple and what do you think was the root problem of their choice?

B. Is God upset if a person spends time beautifying their own home and caring for the details of their life? Why/why not?
4. How does the temple then parallel with the church (the people of God) now?

5. Were the people better or worse off for neglecting God's house (1:5-7)?
6. A. What excuses do people give for not serving and supporting Christ's church?

B. Are you focusing more on your career, home, or hobbies than on God's work? See Luke 12:29-31. What changes could you make, and do you think your life would be better or worse as a result? Explain.
7. How did God motivate the people to recommence and press-on with the building project in 1:12-2:5? How is this similar to the encouragement God gave Joshua (Josh 1:6-9) and His church (Matt 28:19-20)?
8. What did some of the people think about the state of the current temple and how might this have made them feel (2:3)?
9. A. What prophetic picture did God give the people in 2:6-9 to motivate them to build? How did their building of the temple then point to and bring about the greatest fulfillment of God's presence with His people?

B. How does that same picture encourage you today to serve God now?

STOP AND PRAY:

Adore: the Lord who has come in the flesh to reconcile sinful people to Himself
Thank: God for the privilege to serve His church to spread His glory across the earth
Pray: that you would prioritise the glory and purposes of God above all things