



# HAGGAI

SERMONS OF CHRISTIANITY

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This structure highlights the central themes of prioritizing God, the consequences of neglecting His will, and the assurance of divine presence and future blessings.

## **Introduction to the Book of Haggai**

The Book of Haggai is one of the twelve books of the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament. Although brief, this prophetic book is of great significance for its historical context, theological themes, and practical lessons. Below is a detailed introduction to the book:

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### **1. Historical Context**

- **Time Period:**

The book was written in 520 BCE during the reign of King Darius I of Persia. This period falls after the Babylonian exile, during the return of the Jewish people to Jerusalem under the decree of Cyrus the Great.

- **Political Setting:**

The Persian Empire ruled the region, and the Jewish community in Jerusalem was under the governance of Zerubbabel, a descendant of King David, who served as the governor. Joshua (or Jeshua), the high priest, was the spiritual leader.

- **Background:**

The Jewish people had returned to Jerusalem in 538 BCE and began rebuilding the temple. However, opposition from neighboring peoples and internal discouragement led them to abandon the project (Ezra 4:1–5). For nearly 16 years, the temple remained in ruins as the people prioritized their personal affairs over God's house.

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### **2. Authorship**

- **The Prophet Haggai:**

- Little is known about Haggai's personal life outside of this book. His name means "festival" or "festive," suggesting possible connections to religious celebrations.
  - Haggai is notable for being a highly focused prophet, delivering precise, time-stamped messages over just a four-month period in 520 BCE.
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### 3. Structure of the Book

The Book of Haggai is organized into two chapters containing four prophetic messages, all carefully dated:

1. **First Message (1:1–15):** A call to rebuild the temple.
  2. **Second Message (2:1–9):** Encouragement to persevere in the work, with promises of greater glory.
  3. **Third Message (2:10–19):** A reminder of God's blessings for obedience.
  4. **Fourth Message (2:20–23):** A personal assurance to Zerubbabel of his role in God's plan.
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### 4. Key Themes

1. **Priority of Worship:**

The book emphasizes the need to place God's work above personal pursuits. Neglecting the temple's reconstruction reflected misplaced priorities and spiritual apathy.

2. **God's Presence and Encouragement:**

Haggai reassures the people that God is with them as they undertake the temple's rebuilding, offering strength and hope amid challenges.

3. **Obedience and Blessing:**

The book underscores the connection between obedience to God's commands and experiencing His blessings, both materially and spiritually.

4. **Future Glory and Messianic Hope:**

Haggai's prophecy points to the coming of a greater glory, ultimately fulfilled in Christ, whose presence would sanctify the new temple.

5. **God's Sovereignty:**

Haggai highlights God's control over nations, resources, and history, demonstrating His power to fulfill His promises.

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### 5. Relevance and Lessons for Today

- **Spiritual Priorities:** Haggai challenges believers to examine their priorities and put God at the center of their lives.
  - **Faith in God's Promises:** The book encourages trusting in God's faithfulness to provide, guide, and fulfill His purposes.
  - **Courage to Act:** Haggai's messages inspire courage to overcome opposition and fear, committing to God's work with diligence.
  - **Holiness and Worship:** The rebuilding of the temple symbolizes the importance of holiness, worship, and God's presence among His people.
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## 6. Connection to Other Scriptures

- **Ezra and Zechariah:** The events of Haggai are closely tied to the Book of Ezra, which records the rebuilding of the temple, and Zechariah, a contemporary prophet who also encouraged the people.
  - **Messianic Prophecy:** Haggai 2:6–9 alludes to the coming of the Messiah, whose presence would bring ultimate peace and glory to the temple.
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Haggai's concise yet powerful message calls for renewed commitment to God, making it a timeless and practical book for readers seeking to align their lives with God's priorities.

## CHAPTER 1:

### Haggai 1:1

**"In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,"**

This verse establishes the context and timing of Haggai's prophetic message, pinpointing it to a specific moment in the reign of King Darius, which enhances the historical relevance of the prophecy. The mention of the sixth month indicates a period of reflection and transition for the returning exiles of Judah, who had recently returned from Babylonian captivity. Haggai is introduced as a prophet of the Lord, thereby affirming the divine authority of his message. Furthermore, the recipients of this prophecy—Zerubbabel, the civil leader, and Joshua, the high priest—represent both the political and spiritual leadership of the Jewish community. This duality underscores the comprehensive nature of the message, as it addresses both government and religion.

### Haggai 1:2

**"Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built."**

In this verse, Haggai relays the Lord's opinion on the people's attitudes regarding the rebuilding of the temple, indicating a prevalent mindset among the exiles that it was not the appropriate time to undertake this sacred task. The phrase "This people say" reflects a collective sentiment, suggesting that many within the community were complacent, allowing external circumstances or internal discouragement to dictate their priorities. The repetition of timing—"the time is not come"—reveals a hesitance or perhaps even a lack of urgency in their spiritual duty. This verse serves as an indictment of the people's reluctance to prioritize the restoration of their worship and relationship with God, which was integral to their identity and covenantal heritage.

### **Haggai 1:3**

**"Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,"**

Here, we see a shift as Haggai reiterates his role as a mouthpiece for God. The phrase "Then came the word of the LORD" signifies an immediate response to the people's claims about the appropriateness of the time. It emphasizes that even in the midst of doubt and procrastination, God remains proactive, ready to speak truth into the silence of the people's excuses. This establishes a theological principle: God's involvement and concern for His people do not wane, regardless of their reluctance to act. The calling of the prophet indicates a divine urgency that will soon counter both the attitudes of the people and their misplaced priorities.

### **Haggai 1:4**

**"Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?"**

In this verse, Haggai challenges the people directly, posing a rhetorical question that exposes their hypocrisy. The word "cieled" refers to the luxurious and comfortable homes they have built for themselves, creating a stark contrast with the neglected state of the temple, which symbolizes God's presence among them. By juxtaposing their personal comfort with the desolation of the Lord's house, Haggai underscores a significant spiritual neglect. This verse critiques the people's misplaced priorities; while they invest time and resources into their own dwellings, they overlook the need for a place of worship and community. The implication is clear: by prioritizing their physical comfort over their spiritual responsibilities, they are effectively expressing a lack of commitment to their covenant with God.

### **Haggai 1:5**

**"Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."**

The call to "Consider your ways" is a summons for self-reflection and evaluation of their actions and priorities. This direct Divine invitation encourages the people to review their decisions critically and assess the spiritual implications of neglecting the temple. The phrase "Thus saith the LORD of hosts" reaffirms God's authority and the seriousness of the instruction, positioning it as a crucial moment for the people of Israel. By prompting them to reconsider their plans and motivations, God invites a contemplative examination of their hearts, suggesting that their current plight and lack of prosperity stem from their failure to honor Him through the rebuilding of the temple. This verse acts as a pivotal point in the chapter, setting the stage for further revelations about the consequences of their actions.

### **Haggai 1:6**

**"You have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes."**

In this verse, Haggai articulates the struggles faced by the people, depicting a cycle of effort and lack.

Their agricultural toil is met with disappointing returns, emphasizing that despite their hard work, they remain unsatisfied—a poignant metaphor for their spiritual drought. The series of "you have" statements illustrates a stark reality: their attempts at provision in the material realm yield insufficient results. The imagery of having a bag with holes serves as a powerful metaphor for futility; their pursuits lack lasting fulfillment. Haggai's words reflect a theological truth that disobedience and neglect of divine commandments often lead to hardship and existential dissatisfaction. Thus, the struggles they face are portrayed not just as economic issues but as spiritual lessons about the importance of prioritizing God's work above personal gain.

### **Haggai 1:7**

**"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."**

Repeating the imperative to "Consider your ways" reinforces the urgency of self-examination and introspection. The repetition emphasizes that this is not merely an optional suggestion but a divine command meant to evoke serious thought about their situation. It serves as a reminder that their current struggles are interconnected with their spiritual neglect. Haggai, as God's prophet, aims to stimulate a communal realization that their well-being and prosperity are tied to their obedience to God. The divine voice is persistent and clear, urging the people to take ownership of their circumstances and recognize the results of their actions. This insistence signifies the importance of understanding one's spiritual state and the consequences of choices that deviate from God's will.

### **Haggai 1:8**

**"Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD."**

This verse transitions from critique to action, as Haggai delivers a direct exhortation to the people to mobilize and rebuild the temple. The instruction to "go up to the mountain" symbolizes a call to sacrifice and effort, resonating with the biblical precedent of gathering materials for sacred work. By emphasizing the act of bringing wood and constructing the house, Haggai advocates for tangible commitment to God's restoration project. The promise that God will take pleasure in the rebuilt temple serves as a divine motivation for the people. God's glory is intertwined with their actions—by fostering a space for worship, they were not only fulfilling a divine instruction but also facilitating a means through which God's presence could be manifested among them. This verse embodies the hope that active obedience leads to divine satisfaction and community restoration.

### **Haggai 1:9**

**"Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house."**

Haggai points out the disconnect between their expectations and reality, revealing the futility in their approach to life. Their efforts yield little, and God's intervention, symbolized by "I did blow upon it," enhances the perception that their inadequate returns are not merely coincidental; rather, they are a

divine response to their neglect of the temple. The rhetorical question, "Why?" invites reflection on the consequences of prioritizing personal needs over communal and spiritual responsibilities. The phrase signifies that their individual pursuits have led them away from the essential worship that binds the community together. Haggai's message underscores a fundamental principle of covenant life: neglecting one's obligations to God and the community leads to repercussions that encompass not only spiritual emptiness but also tangible struggles in daily life.

### **Haggai 1:10**

**"Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit."**

In this verse, Haggai manifests God's response to the people's disobedience through an agricultural lens. The phrase "the heaven over you is stayed from dew" indicates a divine withholding of blessings, portraying drought as a consequence of the community's neglect of the temple. Dew and fruit are crucial elements for life and sustenance, representing not just physical needs but also spiritual abundance. This connection emphasizes that neglecting worship results in tangible repercussions, highlighting the covenant understanding that blessings are contingent upon faithfulness to God. The dire implications of their actions are made clear: without the dew of heaven and the fruit of the earth, not only do they face material shortages, but their spiritual landscape too becomes barren.

### **Haggai 1:11**

**"And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands."**

This verse further elucidates the extent of God's judgment, detailing specific areas affected by the drought—land, mountains, crops, livestock, and labor. It is a comprehensive depiction of economic hardship that impacts every aspect of life, illustrating that divine intervention is wide-ranging when covenant obligations are neglected. The specificity of each category enhances the urgency of the message: the people are reminded that every facet of their existence is interconnected with their faithfulness to God. This holistic approach underscores that neglect not only affects individual spiritual lives but also has a broader, communal impact. Haggai's proclamation is a call to action, emphasizing that renewal cannot occur until they address the root cause of their plight: turning back to God through the rebuilding of His house.

### **Haggai 1:12**

**"Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD."**

In this pivotal moment, the leaders, Zerubbabel and Joshua, alongside the remnant of the people, respond positively to Haggai's call. Their obedience signifies a crucial turning point; they recognize the weight of Haggai's message as divinely inspired, leading to a communal reawakening. The mention of "the people did fear before the LORD" indicates a restored reverence and acknowledgment of God's



authority and holiness. This genuine fear—a mix of awe and respect—couples with obedience, demonstrating a renewed commitment to fulfilling their covenant duties. This passage vividly illustrates the transformative power of divine confrontation, as the people's hearts shift from complacency to active faith.

### **Haggai 1:13**

**"Then spake Haggai the Lord's messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD."**

Haggai's role as "the Lord's messenger" highlights the importance of God speaking through prophets, a consistent theme throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. In this verse, the essence of God's promise—"I am with you"—is not just a consolation but a powerful affirmation of God's unwavering presence amidst their struggles. This declaration encourages the people that their efforts to rebuild the temple will be supported by divine assistance. The assurance of God's presence is foundational to the people's confidence as they embark on the labor associated with restoring their worship. This verse encapsulates the hope and promise that accompany the call to action, indicating that obedience and commitment to God's work engender divine companionship and favor.

### **Haggai 1:14**

**"And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,"**

This verse depicts a divine mobilization as the Lord actively stirs the hearts of the leaders and the people, demonstrating that the response to God's call is a mutual endeavor involving both divine initiative and human obedience. The "stirring" of spirits indicates a spiritual awakening that compels them to action. Here, the word of the Lord translates into tangible work, reflecting a commitment to rebuild the temple. The collective movement of "all the remnant" signifies unity in purpose and illustrates the restoration of communal identity and commitment. Their labor on the house of the Lord highlights a vital aspect of faith lived out through action, emphasizing that revival often leads to practical expressions of devotion.

### **Haggai 1:15**

**"Now in the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king."**

This concluding verse reiterates the specific time frame of the events described earlier, marking the exact day when the people's hearts were stirred to action—important for recording the faithfulness of God's work among His people. The "four and twentieth day of the sixth month" provides a precise historical reference, showcasing that change can occur swiftly in response to God's call. This detail not only frames the urgency for the people but also emphasizes the tangible results of their obedience. This moment marks a significant milestone in the community's spiritual journey, as they shift from neglect to action, signaling a renewed relationship with God. The specificity also serves to remind future generations of the transformative power of faithfulness and obedience in the face of divine instruction.

These reflections on Haggai Chapter 1 illustrate the powerful connection between prophecy, community action, and divine presence in the life of God's people.

## **CHAPTER 2:**

### **Haggai 2:1**

**“In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the Lord by the prophet Haggai, saying,”**

In this opening verse of Haggai Chapter 2, we learn the specific time when the Lord's message was delivered through the prophet Haggai. The seventh month refers to the month of Tishrei in the Hebrew calendar, a time associated with important festivals such as the Feast of Tabernacles. The date, the twenty-first day, is significant as it follows the observance of the Feast, suggesting a period of reflection after celebration. It is at this juncture that Haggai receives a divine word, emphasizing the immediacy and relevance of God's message to His people. This verse sets the stage for the exhortations and encouragements that follow, marking a crucial moment in the rebuilding of the temple and reinforcing the prophetic tradition in Israel.

### **Haggai 2:2**

**“Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,”**

This verse delineates the key figures to whom Haggai's message is directed: Zerubbabel, the governor, and Joshua, the high priest, alongside the remaining members of the community of Judah. By addressing both civic leadership and spiritual authority, Haggai underscores the importance of unity between political and religious leadership in restoring the nation. The use of “speak now” conveys urgency, as if the necessity of the moment demands immediate action and attentiveness from these leaders. It reflects God's initiative in reviving His people after their long period of neglect, serving both as a call to leadership and to the populace who have returned from exile and are engaged in the monumental task of rebuilding the temple.

### **Haggai 2:3**

**“Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?”**

In this verse, Haggai poses a poignant question, inviting those among the current generation who witnessed the former splendor of Solomon's temple to reflect on their present reality. The “first glory” emphasizes the past magnificence of the temple, which was the focal point of Jewish worship and a physical manifestation of God's presence among His people. As Haggai contrasts this prior glory with the present condition of the second temple, he acknowledges the disappointment that many felt. The rhetorical questions serve to evoke a sense of nostalgia and a realization of the humble beginnings of their new temple. However, the phrase “as nothing” starkly illustrates the starkness of their current

situation, provoking introspection about their faith and expectations as they navigate their new circumstances.

### **Haggai 2:4**

**“Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts:”**

In a tone of encouragement and empowerment, Haggai exhorts Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the entire community of Judah to be strong and to continue their work on the temple project. This call to strength is vital as the people grapple with their disillusionment regarding past glories. The repetition of "be strong" serves to reinforce the need for resilience, especially in the face of adversity and feelings of inadequacy. Importantly, the reassurance “for I am with you” emphasizes God's enduring presence and support, a promise that emboldens them to labor despite challenges. By invoking “the Lord of hosts,” Haggai reminds the people of the divine authority backing their endeavors, instilling hope and determination to pursue what seems daunting.

### **Haggai 2:5**

**“According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.”**

This verse recalls the covenant that God established with Israel at Mount Sinai after their exodus from Egypt, providing a historical reminder of His faithfulness. Haggai reinforces to the people that God’s spirit remains with them, which serves as a fundamental assurance amid their fears and discouragement. The command "fear ye not" urges the people to reject fear and insecurity, encouraging them to trust in God's promises and presence as they undertake the vital task of rebuilding the temple. This juxtaposition of past covenant faithfulness with present assurance evokes a sense of continuity in God’s relationship with His people, reminding them that their identity and mission are grounded in the historical acts of divine deliverance and commitment.

### **Haggai 2:6**

**“For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;”**

In this verse, Haggai communicates a prophetic promise, indicating a future upheaval that will transcend the earthly realm. The phrase “Yet once, it is a little while” suggests a short period before God acts decisively to manifest His power and bring about transformation. The imagery of shaking the heavens, earth, sea, and dry land conveys a sense of cosmic intervention, hinting at both divine judgment and restoration. This shaking serves not only as a harbinger of change but also as a preparation for the coming of future glory that the people should expect. The promise of forthcoming change is meant to inspire anticipation and hope amidst their current hardships, assuring them that God is still actively involved in the course of history.

## **Haggai 2:7**

**“And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.”**

Here, Haggai declares that God will shake all nations, signifying a dramatic shift in power and influence. The phrase “the desire of all nations” is often interpreted as referring to the Messiah or the coming of something that all nations long for, indicating that God's plan extends beyond Israel to a global scale. This verse also promises that the temple would be filled with glory, hinting at a future transformation in the temple's significance and presence—a glory that surpasses that of the former temple. This assurance serves to uplift the spirits of the people, reminding them that their efforts in rebuilding are part of God's larger redemptive plan, and that true fulfillment and divine presence will be manifested in ways that far exceed their current endeavors.

## **Haggai 2:8**

**“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.”**

In this verse, God emphatically declares the ownership of all material wealth, illustrating that both silver and gold belong to Him. This statement serves to remind the people of God's sovereignty over all creation and resources, including the materials needed for the temple's construction. By asserting His ownership, God encourages His people not to be disheartened by the perceived lack of resources, reassuring them that He can provide abundantly for the task at hand. This verse reinforces the idea that the successful rebuilding of the temple does not solely depend on human effort or resources, but on God's provision and blessing, which in turn invites the people to trust in His capacity to fulfill His promises.

## **Haggai 2:9**

**“The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.”**

This verse culminates Haggai's message with a profound promise that the glory of the newly constructed temple will surpass that of Solomon's temple. This statement counteracts the prevailing sense of despair among the people regarding the present state of the temple. The assurance of greater glory suggests that the future will bring a more profound manifestation of God's presence and blessings. Moreover, the promise of peace in this place accentuates the temple's role as a center for divine favor and reconciliation. This verse encapsulates the relentless hope offered to the people, inspiring faith not only in their immediate task of rebuilding but also in the belief that their labor contributes to a larger divine purpose that will culminate in a more glorious future.

## **Haggai 2:10**

**“In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying,”**

This verse marks a new timeline, indicating that approximately two months later, on the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, Haggai received yet another message from the Lord. The specificity of the date and the mention of Darius continuing to rule provide historical context and authenticate the prophetic message's timing. The renewed declaration of “the word of the Lord” emphasizes the continuity of divine communication during this critical period of reconstruction. This verse sets the stage for the further guidance and instruction that will follow, showing that God’s engagement with His people and their circumstances is ongoing and dynamic, reflecting His desire to steer them in a righteous direction as they navigate their challenges.

## **Haggai 2:11**

**“Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying,”**

In this verse, Haggai directs the people to seek wisdom and understanding from the priests, who were custodians of the Law and the religious life of the community. By prompting the people to inquire about the law, Haggai emphasizes the importance of holiness and righteousness in their actions, particularly regarding the work they are undertaking. The phrase “Ask now” implies active engagement with spiritual leaders in discerning God’s will and commands, indicating that the temple's rebuilding is not just a physical endeavor but also a spiritual journey. This verse underscores the essential integration of worship, law, and community life, reinforcing that their efforts should align with divine instructions to be genuinely fruitful.

## **Haggai 2:12**

**“If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.”**

In this verse, Haggai introduces a legalistic question to the priests concerning ritual purity. The imagery of holy flesh is intended to examine the idea of how holiness is transmitted. The priests' response, acknowledging that sanctity does not pass on through mere contact with everyday items—such as bread, pottage, or wine—highlights the necessity of intentionality and adherence to divine laws for something to be considered holy. This serves to illuminate the concept that holiness is not simply a passive state but is connected to one’s actions and intentions. Haggai employs this inquiry to direct attention toward the spiritual state of the people; the implication is that their current actions without true dedication to God may not result in the blessings they seek for their temple efforts.

## **Haggai 2:13**

**“Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.”**

Here, Haggai draws a parallel to the concept of ritual impurity by asking if contact with something unclean—specifically, a dead body—would contaminate the sacred objects mentioned previously. The priests affirm that it would, reinforcing the notion that impurity is easily transmitted, unlike holiness. This contrast serves as a revelation to the people regarding their own spiritual condition; Haggai implies that their current state of defilement, stemming from their neglect of God’s commands and priorities, would adversely affect their efforts to build the temple. This verse acts as a cautionary wake-up call that underscores the importance of purity and righteousness in their lives, emphasizing that striving for holiness is integral to receiving God’s blessings and favor as they undertake their sacred task.

### **Haggai 2:14**

**“Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the Lord; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean.”**

In a moment of clarity, Haggai draws the lesson from the previous verses together, declaring that just as ritual impurity easily transmits, so too does the state of the people reflect their spiritual disconnect from God. He emphasizes that the nation of Israel stands unclean before the Lord due to their lack of commitment and the superficiality of their efforts. This forthright declaration about “every work of their hands” reveals that not only are their intentions questionable, but the offerings they present to God are likewise defiled. Haggai's words serve as a sobering reminder to the people that their spiritual state is closely tied to their actions and their relationship with God; thus, they must seek genuine repentance and dedication in order to experience His favor.

### **Haggai 2:15**

**“And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the Lord:”**

In this verse, Haggai calls the people to reflect on their circumstances from a point in time before they began rebuilding the temple. He urges them to “consider” or think critically about their past actions and the condition of their offerings and work as they sought to serve the Lord. This call to reflection is crucial, as it compels the people to recognize their past neglect and to assess the implications of their choices on their current state. The mention of “before a stone was laid” signifies a time of inactivity regarding their commitment to God and His commands, pointing out that their efforts since then have been influenced by their spiritual condition. This summons to introspection aims to inspire a renewed commitment, driving them to realign their focus on God in the present.

### **Haggai 2:16**

**“Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten; when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.”**

In this verse, Haggai illustrates a stark contrast between the past and the present by reflecting on the economic disappointments that have plagued the people. The imagery of arriving with expectations—twenty measures or fifty vessels—only to find half or less signifies a lack of divine blessing on their

endeavors. This observation serves as an indictment of their spiritual disconnection, as their unfaithfulness has led to diminished returns in their labor. Haggai's words encourage the people to recognize that their economic hardships are informed by their neglect of God's ways. He links their material struggles with their spiritual state, suggesting that only when they truly commit to the Lord can they hope for the restoration of His blessings in abundance.

### **Haggai 2:17**

**“I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labors of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the Lord.”**

Haggai places divine judgment squarely before the people, reminding them of the calamities that have afflicted their agricultural efforts, including various forms of blight and destruction. The specifics of “blasting,” “mildew,” and “hail” evoke images of natural disasters that were interpreted as direct consequences of their spiritual failure and disobedience. Despite these hardships, the Lord notes their failure to heed His call to repentance and return. This observation of ongoing rebellion despite clear signs of distress underscores the nature of humankind's tendency to resist divine guidance. Haggai's message serves as a wake-up call, emphasizing that true restoration and divine favor can only be attained through sincere acknowledgment of their faults and a genuine turning back to God.

### **Haggai 2:18**

**“Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid, consider it.”**

Haggai repeats the call to reflection, this time emphasizing a new point in time—the day the foundation of the temple was laid. This transitional moment marks a significant achievement in the rebuilding process and serves as a pivotal reference for the people. The phrase “from this day and upward” invites them to contemplate the future, encouraging a mindset of hope and expectation regarding what lies ahead. By directing their thoughts to this key event—the act of laying the foundation—Haggai aims to instill confidence and resolve, suggesting that it is a new beginning. This act represents not only their commitment to rebuilding but also symbolizes the restoration of their relationship with God, from which blessings will flow as they continue to earnestly seek Him.

### **Haggai 2:19**

**“Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you.”**

This verse presents a direct inquiry into the current state of agricultural productivity, where the crops have not yet yielded fruit. The mention of specific trees and plants—vines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees—paints a picture of agricultural struggle and lack of bounty experienced by the people. It signifies their ongoing misfortunes, yet amidst this reality, Haggai offers a glimmer of hope. The statement “from this day will I bless you” signals a turning point; it indicates that God is poised to begin restoring His blessings upon His people as they recommit themselves to Him. This promise

heralds renewed divine favor and signifies the start of a new chapter, one that is contingent upon their faithfulness as they advance in their rebuilding efforts.

### **Haggai 2:20**

**“And again the word of the Lord came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying,”**

This verse marks another moment of revelation, with the Lord speaking once more to Haggai on the same date, the twenty-fourth of the ninth month. The repetition of the word of the Lord emphasizes the importance of Haggai’s role as a prophet in communicating God’s will to the people. This timing further solidifies the connection between the previous messages and the continuing revelation, underlining God’s ongoing commitment to guide His people as they rebuild both the temple and their relationship with Him. It serves to build anticipation for the message that will follow, suggesting that God is keen to further instruct and encourage His people as they navigate their spiritual and communal restoration.

### **Haggai 2:21**

**“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;”**

In this verse, Haggai addresses Zerubbabel directly once again, signifying the importance of leadership in the prophetic message. The repetition of the phrase “I will shake the heavens and the earth” from earlier in the chapter serves as a reminder of God’s promise of divine action on a grand scale. This proclamation is directed specifically to Zerubbabel, indicating that he has a vital role to play in God’s plans for His people. The emphasis on God’s transformative power underscores the hope that the people can rely on divine intervention to effect real change, encouraging Zerubbabel to rise to the occasion and lead the people in faithfulness and determination as they seek to fulfill God’s purposes for the temple and the nation.

### **Haggai 2:22**

**“And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.”**

In this verse, Haggai unveils God’s intention to dismantle the geopolitical structures of worldly kingdoms and powers that oppose His people, assuring Zerubbabel that God is actively involved in turning the tide against their enemies. The imagery of overthrowing thrones and destroying the strength of heathen kingdoms conveys a profound divine judgment against those who oppress Israel. The promise that “the horses and their riders shall come down” underscores not only physical warfare but also spiritual victory accomplished by God’s direct intervention. This powerful assurance is meant to instill courage in Zerubbabel and the people by reminding them that God is the true sovereign, capable of delivering them from oppression and turmoil, thus reinforcing their purpose in rebuilding the temple and restoring their identity as His chosen people.



## Haggai 2:23

**“In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the Lord, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts.”**

In this concluding verse, Haggai delivers a personal promise to Zerubbabel, elevating his status as a leader and servant of God. The term “signet” signifies authority and authenticity, suggesting that Zerubbabel will be a prominent figure through whom God’s purposes will manifest. The affirmation “for I have chosen thee” underscores God’s deliberate choice of Zerubbabel, indicating that he possesses a divine calling to lead his people in this pivotal time of restoration. This declaration not only serves to validate Zerubbabel’s role but also provides hope for the nation of Judah as they navigate their recovery. By likening Zerubbabel to a signet, God ensures that he will have lasting significance in the evidence of God’s faithfulness and involvement with His people, forming a powerful endcap to the chapter’s themes of hope, renewal, and divine authority.

## Conclusion to the Book of Haggai

The Book of Haggai concludes with an uplifting message of hope, restoration, and divine assurance. Despite its brevity, this prophetic book leaves a lasting impact, addressing timeless spiritual truths and offering encouragement for believers facing challenges. Below is a detailed conclusion of the book:

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### 1. The Central Accomplishment: Rebuilding the Temple

Haggai’s primary purpose was to motivate the people to rebuild the temple, the physical symbol of God’s presence among His people. Through his prophetic messages, the people recognized their neglect, repented, and renewed their commitment to the work. The temple’s reconstruction marked a spiritual and communal revival for the post-exilic Jewish community.

- **Significance of the Temple:**

The temple was more than a building; it represented God’s covenant with Israel and their identity as His chosen people. Its restoration reaffirmed their relationship with God and their role in His divine plan.

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### 2. God’s Faithfulness in the Present

Throughout Haggai’s messages, God repeatedly reassures His people of His presence and provision:

- **“I am with you”** (Haggai 1:13) was a promise that inspired confidence and perseverance.
- God blessed the work of their hands and restored the land’s fertility as a tangible sign of His favor (Haggai 2:18–19).

This faithfulness demonstrated that obedience to God brings immediate and practical blessings, fostering trust and dependence on Him.

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### 3. God's Promises for the Future

The book ends with a prophetic declaration of future hope:

- **Greater Glory for the Temple** (Haggai 2:6–9):  
God promises that the glory of the new temple will surpass the glory of Solomon's temple. This prophecy points forward to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who would embody God's presence and fulfill the promise of peace.
  - **The Role of Zerubbabel** (Haggai 2:20–23):  
Zerubbabel, as the governor of Judah and descendant of David, is described as God's "signet ring." This symbol of authority and chosenness connects Zerubbabel to the messianic lineage, emphasizing God's ongoing plan to establish His kingdom through the line of David.
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### 4. Theological Themes Reinforced in the Conclusion

1. **God's Sovereignty:**  
The shaking of the heavens, earth, and nations (Haggai 2:6–7) illustrates God's ultimate control over history and His power to bring about His purposes.
  2. **Obedience and Blessing:**  
Haggai underscores the direct relationship between the people's obedience to God's commands and His willingness to bless them.
  3. **Messianic Hope:**  
The promises to Zerubbabel anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ, the true King and fulfillment of God's covenant promises.
  4. **Faith in God's Plan:**  
Haggai concludes with a reminder that even in times of difficulty, God's purposes will prevail. His people are called to trust in His timing and remain faithful.
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### 5. Contemporary Relevance

The Book of Haggai offers timeless lessons for believers:

- **Prioritize God's Work:** Just as the people of Haggai's time were called to rebuild the temple, modern believers are encouraged to build lives centered on God's will.
- **Trust God's Promises:** God's assurance of His presence and provision applies to those who seek to serve Him wholeheartedly.

- **Hope in God's Kingdom:** Haggai reminds us to look forward to the fulfillment of God's ultimate plan in Jesus Christ, whose reign brings peace and eternal glory.
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## **6. Legacy of the Book of Haggai**

The Book of Haggai, though concise, is a powerful testament to God's faithfulness and His desire for His people to prioritize their relationship with Him. It bridges the post-exilic struggles of ancient Judah with the broader narrative of God's redemptive plan, culminating in Jesus Christ.

Haggai's message is as relevant today as it was centuries ago, calling believers to align their priorities with God's purposes, persevere in their faith, and trust in the ultimate fulfillment of His promises.

**Dr. Paul Crawford is more than just a Christian Author; His books are a source of inspiration and guidance on your spiritual journey. His books are created with a deep sense of faith and a desire to uplift and inspire all who read.**