

Review

First Message of Haggai - CONVICTION

(Haggai 1:1-15)

When our priorities are wrong, God will not bless - Put God First

Haggai 1:5,7 "...Consider your ways"

Are you earning wages to put them in bags with holes?

When our priorities are right, when we respond with obedience, the blessing is the promise of His presence

Haggai 1:13 "I am with you"

Second message of Haggai - COURAGE

(Haggai 2:1-9)

Don't be discouraged in your service for the Lord when you don't see immediate, visible fruit - God looks at the heart!

Haggai 2:4

"... be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts:"

Be strong and work (Haggai 2:4)

God will provide for His work (Haggai 2:8)

"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."

God will have His glory (Haggai 2:9)

"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former"

God will give His peace (Haggai 2:9)

Third message of Haggai- CLEANLINESS

(Haggai 2:10-19)

Consecration and Blessing

Read Haggai 2:10-19

A. Contamination and Consecration

(v10-14)

1. The questions to the priests:
 1. The garment of the priest is sanctified by the sacrificial meat it carries. But can the garment further sanctify other (common) food? NO!
 2. Does common food become contaminated by when someone who has touched a dead body (i.e. ceremonially unclean) touches it? YES!
2. Holiness is not transmissible but Impurity is!
3. A stern rebuke to the people
 1. (v14) Haggai 2:14 "... 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."
 2. 1 Samuel 16:7 "... for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."
4. Outward work and worship is not the same as inner sanctification
 1. Matt 15:8 "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." (quoting Isa 29:13)
 2. Psalms 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

B. Consequences

v15-18 the punishment for disobedience

A reminder of Haggai 1:5-6; 9-11

None of our plans, ambitions, labours will be blessed

Review (Lesson 1)

The promises of God

1. Blessing for obedience - Deut 28:1-2, 8-10
2. Punishment for disobedience /forsaking God - Deut 28:15,20,32,36-37, 49-50, 64

C. Covenant

v19: the blessing of obedience

- the temple was not yet completed
- they had needed a sharp reminder
- yet the Lord was happy to bless them for OBEYING (not so much for building a grand temple)

APPLICATION - CONSECRATION & BLESSING

1. Only those sanctified can do the Lord's work

Psalm 24:3-5

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?

or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;

who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity,

nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord,

and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

2. A question of purity

- How much purity is desired?
- How much poison would you allow in your drinking water?

Is it easier to purify something contaminated or contaminate something pure?

How much sin should we allow in our lives? In our church?

3. Some principles for dealing with sin

1. Fellowship with God demands purity (God has zero tolerance for sin)
2. Sin is infectious /contagious - but holiness is not
 1. similar to to disease (you can catch a cold, but not health)
 2. therefore walk circumspectly and be vigilant
 1. (think SARS) - avoid, identify, treat, quarantine, protect (full PPE)

<http://www.thebugoutbagguide.com/pandemic-survival-prepping-ebola/>

3. A little sin is enough to contaminate
 1. Eccl 10:1 "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."
 2. 1 Corinthians 5:6 "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"
4. Deal with sin before its effects spread to others
 1. Hebrews 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

2. c.f. Levitical law - a sacrifice for almost everything
 1. Burnt offering: atonement
 2. Grain offering - dedication
 3. Peace offering - reconciliation
 4. Sin offering - Propitiation
 5. Trespass offering - Repentance
3. Side note: purpose of ritual
 1. points us to God - reminds us of God's holiness and our sinfulness
 2. the complicated routine reminds us of (gives us time to meditate on) the seriousness with which God views sin and repentance - the sinfulness of sin and the magnitude of mercy
5. Dealing with sin is a continuous process
 1. People can be stubborn
 1. Haggai 2:15-17 "...yet ye turned not to me"
 2. Romans 10:21 "But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying (*obstinate*) people."
 3. 1Pet 2:22 "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."
 2. human nature is such that it is easy to revert back to the old ways at the first hint of difficulty
 3. regulations were important components in the ceremonial law and provide a great illustration of the conflict that every believer faces by living in the world
 4. Pray constantly - for ourselves (repentance, avoidance), for those in sin, for those who have to deal with them, for protection from sin for all.

4. Claiming the Covenant - God's blessing for repentance and consecration

1. Deut 28:1-14
2. Haggai 2:19 "...from this day, I will bless you"
 1. Physical blessing (the harvest)
 2. Spiritual blessing ("I am with you")
3. Element of trust (the good harvest had not come)
 - Zech 8:12-15 "For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing.

Fear not, but let your hands be strong.” For thus says the Lord of hosts: “As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not.”

4. When will we see the blessing?

- Hebrews 10:36 "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

5. God keeps His promises always

- Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"
- Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"
- **Man is fond of rewarding achievement - not effort**
- **God rewards the intent of the heart and the action that springs from the intent**

Contamination (with sin) brings punishment

Consecration (cleanliness through repentance) brings blessing