

- Background
 - “Haggai” means festal
 - Possibly born during one of the pilgrimage feasts
 - Along with Zechariah, encouraged Israel to rebuild the temple of God
 - Probably an exile returned from Babylon
 - ~500 BC
- Haggai 1
 - The Lord takes precedence (Haggai 1: 1-11)
 - The world and its passions aren’t enough for us (Haggai 1: 6)
 - We try to go about our lives, but there’s something missing
 - Solomon was rich... incredibly so (2 Chronicles 9: 13-14)
 - He goes on to write about how this wealth meant nothing (Ecclesiastes 2: 9-11)
 - Solomon spent a vast amount of his life seeking God and wisdom, and in return, found favor in God’s eyes (1 Kings 3: 10-14)
 - Solomon would put God first (well at least in the beginning he did)
 - In a similar scenario, we see Solomon building God’s temple before building his own (1 Kings 6-7)
 - We aren’t to build our own home first, but to work and trust in the Lord, and keep faith all else will fall into place (Haggai 1: 9)
 - What’s more is that God will work with us to serve him (Haggai 1: 13)
 - Haggai 2
 - No task is too large for God (Haggai 2: 1-9)
 - As we previously mentioned, God is with his people in building the temple (Haggai 1: 13)
 - Here, we see that the temple is in shambles, and it seems impossible to rebuild (Haggai 2: 3)
 - God is amongst us and fights for us (Haggai 2: 4-5)
 - All glory and treasure belong to the Lord (Haggai 2: 7-9)
 - The new temple is greater than the old (Haggai 2: 9)
 - Ultimately, no temple is large enough to hold the glory of God
 - What does this mean for us today, when our bodies are a temple of God? (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)
 - We should expect better for ourselves, as we have no right to defile the temple with sin

- Efforts should be spent building the temple (Haggai 1: 7-8)
- Work heartily as for the Lord (Haggai 2: 10-23)
 - Under the law, certain things were considered unclean (Numbers 19: 11) and couldn't come to God unless they were clean
 - The lesson here is that we should be working with a servant's heart, not a begrudging one, as we serve God in all we do (Colossians 3: 23-24)
 - God is saying that the works of Israel can't really count if they're begrudging to serve (Haggai 2: 14-17)
 - Don't want to be along for a begrudging ride, God wants us to enjoy it
 - Shopping with a friend (good vs bad attitude)
 - Though they messed up, God will bless the future generations with the temple which was sowed (Haggai 2: 19)
 - Israel tried sowing anything else, but it wasn't sufficient
 - Only the Lord is truly sufficient
 - The seed isn't growing yet... it's in the barn
 - With the building of the temple, they can grow
 - Punishment for not turning to God (Haggai 2: 20-23)
 - Since they built the temple they found favor in God