

Haggai: A Greater Way

Week 3 (March 15) – A Greater Is Way Coming

Haggai 2:1-9 – God Reassures His People with His coming Glory — God’s people continue finding hope in God’s glory – past, present, and future

- Thank you for Your faithfulness – it strengthens us and gives us confidence – Our strength and determination fail, but God is faithful!
- Jesus: Jesus came and revealed God’s glory to man

Call to Worship

Read

Haggai 2:1-9 ESV

2 In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet: **2** “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, **3** ‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? **4** Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, **5** according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. **6** For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. **7** And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. **8** The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. **9** The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.’”

Pray

Gratitude

Father, You are the great God of the Universe, the Lord of Hosts. Thank you for abiding with us, being patient and merciful when we lose hope and become fearful. Thank you for giving us your strength and for being our great source of hope.

Petition

Father, you know we try to live by our own strength, and it causes problems. Forgive us when we become fearful and lose hope. We need you to open our hearts, minds, and eyes to you. Help us to think of you always and to place our hope in you. Cause us to sing your praises and care for each other from the hope we have in Jesus.

Sermon

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

Hope is a unique thing. When there is hope, then perseverance and determination follow. Where there is no hope, then life struggles to exist and can even cease. Peter writes to Christians who are suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. There are people who are causing them harm and harassing them. Peter writes that God has put hope in their hearts by Jesus Christ. Peter tells them to prepare a statement ahead of time to explain why they have hope. Listen to Peter's words in I Peter 3:14-15

1 Peter 3:13-17 ESV

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. **Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,** ¹⁵ **but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;** yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

When we turn to ourselves and forget to think of God, are blind to see God moving and working, or do not honor Christ in what we do, then hope vanishes like a vapor in the wind. Hope in something other than God is worthless and empty.

Let's continue studying God's word to His people through Haggai and learn how God deals with fading hope while giving genuine hope.

Read

Haggai 2:1-9 ESV

(SLIDE 2) **2** In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet: **2** "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, **3** 'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?

(SLIDE 3) **4** Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, **5** according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. **6** For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.

(SLIDE 4) 7 And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. 9 The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.”

Series Graphic (SLIDE 5)

Notes on Haggai 2:1-9

God Speaks Again to His People (v.1-2)

God speaks again through Haggai to the leaders and to the people. God continues including Zerubbabel and Joshua as He speaks to and works with His people. The reader could assume that the leaders were included if God had just directed Haggai to speak to the people, but God specifically mentions Zerubbabel and Joshua. God could have just spoken to the leaders and directed them to speak to the people. This is a chain of communication God has used in speaking to His people (Moses in the Tent of Meeting Exodus 33:7-11). In this instance, God chooses to speak to the leaders and the people, making it clear that they are the leaders and that God is including them in His work.

The people are at work to build the Lord’s House, the temple. While they have been building for almost 21 months, there seems to be an issue arising. God speaks through Haggai to address this issue, which will be revealed in verse 3. What we see in verse 1-2 is that God’s presence, which He reminded the people of in Haggai 1:13, is continuing and being present causes God to speak to the leaders and the people while they are working obediently.

Disappointment Robs Strength (v. 3)

God asks questions again to the people. His questions aren’t to gain information, but to reveal what He knows and sees. There is fading determination, strength, and resolve to complete the building. God addresses the people from a generational position while revealing their lack of resolve. The people are obeying God, but their determination and resolve is failing and they lack confidence. It isn’t just that the building project is at risk, the people are not faithful to keep their word. They are on the brink of disobedience again. God speaks the issue.

Those who saw the former glory of the Solomonic Temple know that this new temple is far less grand. People who have returned from Babylon have seen the king’s grand palace that was probably large in territory and extravagant in its décor. They look upon the new structure for their God, and it is much smaller and far less grand than the Solomonic Temple or the foreign King’s palace. God address the reality that they see. The new temple is not as grand as what they have seen before. God also addresses that this judgement is an issue for the people who have committed to obey and fear the Lord. The people have passed judgement upon God, again. They have judged that this new temple they are building is nothing in their eyes. They are disappointed and it is causing them to sin.

The Abiding God Fosters Confidence (v.4-5)

The abiding God, who is “their God”, acts. God tells them to be strong. This is a powerful word that has echoed through generations of God’s people. Where people are not faithful and do not have enduring strength, God is faithful and His strength never fades. God isn’t just telling His people to use their own strength and try harder. God is actually telling them that He is strengthening them and they, who have His strength, are to depend upon Him and live by His strength. Without God’s abiding words, this would be a useless statement. But God is near and He is strengthening His people. They only have to live by the faith He gave them and the strength He is giving them. God speaks into the people crumbling confidence to bolster them and cause them to be confident. Their confidence is not in their selves, this is a fading and unreliable source of perseverance. The abiding God is reminding them to rely fully upon Him. The final aspect of verse 5 reveals that there is a deeper issue in the hearts and minds of His people. The condition of the temple is causing God’s people concern in the context of living amidst people who look to conquer and eliminate them. There is fear. They have a weak and unimpressive temple, and they are at risk of being conquered. They might see themselves as a weaker and lesser people because they have an unimpressive temple. There is fear in the hearts of the people. God speaks and reminds them that He “remains in their midst” and they are to “fear not”. God gives His people confidence and strength!

God has acknowledged that the temple is less grand than before, but God is not weakened nor is He absent. His plan and His will are effective and will come to reality. God speaks to Zerubbabel publicly and tells him to be strong. Zerubbabel hears this, Joshua hears this, and the people hear this. God is giving Zerubbabel strength. God tells Joshua to be strong. Joshua hears this, Zerubbabel hears this, and the people hear this. God is giving strength to Joshua. God commands the people to be strong. The people hear this, Zerubbabel hears this, and Joshua hears this. God is giving strength to the people. God, the Lord of all the Universe and of all the Heavenly Armies, is telling His people to be strong. They have God on their side and He is undefeatable!

God then speaks to the people to remind them that He has been faithful. His presence and strength were promised in a covenant made 1,400 to 1,500 years earlier. God made a covenant with Abraham to make a nation of people, to bring forth a king to lead the people, and as their God, to abide with His. God is faithfully keeping this covenant, and this action is part of fulfilling this covenant.

A Greater Movement is Coming (v.6-8)

God declares through Haggai to the people that God is over all things and all people. He will do something that will bring Glory back into His house. Haggai doesn’t say this, nor do Zerubbabel or Joshua. God speaks this to Haggai and through the leaders. God says that He has plans that are being carried out. God moved and worked before and He continues His work. What will He do? He will shake all His creation (heaven, earth, sea, and dry land). He will move (shake) all the nations so that their treasures come into the Lord’s house. The description in this passage is of an

image that is God disrupting and sifting. God will disrupt everything. Nothing will be unaffected. God will sift all nations, no one will be left unaffected. What seems meager and poor now, namely the structure and grandeur of the Lord's house, will be made magnificent. God will bring attention and magnificence by the shaking of creation. God will fill His house with riches. God could do this by His supernatural ability, create riches out of nothing, but God reveals here that He will cause all the other nations to give their riches to His house. This imagery reaches back to the Exodus. When God's people are released from slavery in Egypt, after 400 years, they leave and God causes all the people living in Egypt to give their treasure to the Israelites as they leave. The Israelites go from abject poverty to having riches, instantly. They are sent off with acquired wealth that they did not earn nor did they attain for themselves. God is saying that He will do this again. All this "shaking" will draw attention to the fact that God will take up residence in His house. His presence will come into this house, and His glory will fill the place. This is the words of the Great God of all heaven and earth. He says that He will do it and He will make it happen. A greater moment is coming! Then God reminds the people that He, being the God of heaven and earth, possesses all the things of heaven and earth. Everyone who has things in their accounts are only stewards, God is the owner. Being a steward means that a person is only a manager or keeper. God isn't limited in His ownership, but in verse eight, God says that He owns all the precious metals in the world. God directly owns all the silver and all the gold, but He owns all. Therefore, when God shakes the world and they give all their treasures away at His direction, it is by God's doing. Some nations may give in worship or obedience while others will give by compulsion or have their treasures taken. The point is that God determines the time and He will collect all of His riches. God's Glory rests where He places it.

Greater Glory (v.9)

God finishes His word in this section by declaring that the first temple was glorious and beautiful. He continues that as glorious as the Solomonic temple was, it is not the pinnacle of God's glorious work. Where God dwells makes that place glorious. The glory of a place is influenced by God's presence. Greater glory is coming! The place God makes glorious, He will also give peace. This will be the place where God lives in peace with His people. For God's people, living in peace with their God will bring a peace like they have only imagined and had partial or temporary experience with. God is referencing a peace that comes from God. God will establish a greater glory, and this is the hope of God's people.

God's People Live In The Hope That Comes From God (SLIDE 6)

Our Flesh Fails (SLIDE 7)

God is present, reveals Himself, and is actively working

We grow distant from God, blind toward God, and we become weak

Our God is Faithful (SLIDE 8)

He Is Present and Working

He Keeps His Word and Accomplishes His Will

Live and Serve by His Work Through Us (SLIDE 9)

Reject Living and Serving by Our Strength Alone

Live and Serve by His Strength and Power Working

In You

Around You

Through You

Place all Hope in God (SLIDE 10)

God Will Accomplish His Will

You Are Part of His Work

He Calls You

He Equips You

He Will Use You in His Work

- Jesus Revealed God's Glory and Brought Hope that God would destroy sin's curse
 - Fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 – Jesus is the Seed of Woman to Crush the Serpent's Head
 - Hebrews 1:3 – The very imprint of God's nature and revealed radiance of God's glory
- Jesus Revealed that He would Replace the Temple
 - John 2:19-21
- Jesus Is the True Temple of God

God, Our Hope is in You! (SLIDE 11)

We Need Your Faithful Strength and Confidence Live In Your Greater Way

Series Graphic (SLIDE 12)