

## Haggai: A Greater Way

### Week 2 (March 8) – There is a Greater Way

**Haggai 1:2-15 – God Rebukes and His people respond** – God’s rebukes, corrects, and assures His People and they respond in loving obedience

- We confess our disobedience and are grateful for correction – we are kept in your work and blessing. We commit to God’s work as high priority.
- Jesus: God revealed the way to peace with Him is only through Jesus. Jesus lived the Greater Way! Jesus is the Greater Way!

### Call to Worship

#### Read (Stand for Reading)

### Haggai 1:2-15 ESV

**2** “Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.” **3** Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, **4** “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? **5** Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. **6** You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. **7** “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. **8** Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord. **9** You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. **10** Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. **11** And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.” **12** Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, 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 feared the Lord. **13** Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke to the people with the Lord's message, “I am with you, declares the Lord.” **14** And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, **15** on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

### Pray

Father, search our hearts and minds. Where we are doing what is best in our own eyes, reveal that and correct us. Cause us to see that your way is greater than ours. Cause us to honor your way as greatest and strive to live according to your way. We worship You this morning showing our love for you and that you are our God!

## **Praise**

Let's focus on our Great God and worship Him together.

## **Sermon**

### **Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)**

## **Opening Idea**

The author of Hebrews writes a profound truth in chapter 12 verse 6. Something painful can cause us to think we are rejected and not loved. But, for those who belong to God, something painful can be God's work to bring us away from our sinfulness and back into peace with Him. The author reveals that relationship is at the core of God's work in us. He writes, "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." Belonging to God helps understand when He corrects us and works to remove sinful behavior and foster submission and obedience.

God's word is good and effective. Let's continue studying God's word through the prophet Haggai to discover God and see His Greater Way!

## **Read**

### **Haggai 1:2-15 ESV**

**(SLIDE 2)** **2** "Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord." **3** Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, **4** "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? **5** Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.

**(SLIDE 3)** **6** You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. **7** “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. **8** Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.

**(SLIDE 4)** **9** You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. **10** Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce.

**(SLIDE 5)** **11** And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.” **12** Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, 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 feared the Lord.

**(SLIDE 6)** **13** Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke to the people with the Lord's message, “I am with you, declares the Lord.” **14** And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, **15** on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

### **Series Graphic (SLIDE 7)**

#### **Notes on Haggai 1:2-15**

##### **People's Timing and God's Timing (v. 2-4)**

The word that God speaks through Haggai to Zerubbabel and Joshua and to the people is that they have exercised judgement in error. God says, “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come for the Lord's house to be built. God reveals that he knows the hearts and minds of these people and they have not obeyed to build the temple (the Lord's house). This phrase sounds honorable. It sounds like the project is important and that God's words are taken seriously, but God reveals that this is not true. God shows that the people have determined that God's timing is wrong. They know better and it is not time to build the Lord's house. They have succumbed to idolatry. Their ways are better and their judgement is greater. The people make a defense for not obeying in building the Lord's house, but there is no defense. They have not done what they were commanded.

God speaks again through Haggai. This time, God asks a question to reveal where the people stand with God. The response they have given to God is not true, nor is it in alignment with God's will. God's question in verse 4 reveals that they are living in disobedience. The people have shifted their focus from obeying God to leaving God's house unfinished and working to complete their homes. God points out that the Lord's house is uninhabitable since it is uncovered. God's house has no roof. On the other hand, the people's houses can be lived in since they have roofs and coverings. The interpretation of "is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses" is that the people have roofed their homes and left God's house uncovered and being ruined by the elements. This question shows that God knows their hearts and minds. They have chosen themselves and rejected God.

### **The Lesser Way and the Greater Way (v. 5-11)**

#### **Consider Your Selfish Ways (v. 5-6)**

God has revealed that the people's hearts and minds are selfish and they are worshipping an idol – self. Now, God tells the people that they are ignorant to God's work. He has been correcting them, but they have not discerned it. God asks the question, "Consider your ways." This question reveals that there is something wrong with their way. Their selfish ways have caused their ignorance and God's discipline to correct their sin. In their disobedience, God has them to not be fruitful, though they are working hard. God says that they have sown much, eat much, drink much, clothed themselves, and have earned good wages. Yet, in disobedience, God has caused them to not reap the rewards of arduous work. They have harvested little, found no satisfaction in eating or drinking, find themselves cold, and they seem to lose their money like they have holes in their money bags. They are not finding a good return on their work because God is correcting them.

#### **Consider Obedient Ways (v. 7-8)**

God speaks again through Haggai and repeats the question, "Consider your ways". This time, there is a different tone or idea with this question. God is now directing the people to find a different way. Rather than disregarding the Lord's house for their own and living in discipline, God directs the people to live obediently and bring Him joy while also glorifying Him. God is giving them a way to recover from struggling to thriving and it is through obedience.

#### **God Corrects Disobedience (9-11)**

God addresses the results of their disobedience. While being corrected, there were struggles. God reminds them that during the season of selfishness they were not fruitful. They didn't find much when they went looking, what they did find was blown away when they returned home. The struggle wasn't an accident; God was at work to reveal their sin and correct them. God tells them why He corrected them. The people disregarded God and elevated their wants above Him. God withheld moisture, produce,

wine, oil, animals, and anything that would have been fruits of their labor. God isn't punishing them in spite but is correcting them so they will turn from their selfish and sinful ways and live obediently.

## **God's People Respond to God in Fear and They Obey (v. 12-15)**

### **The Leaders and People Obeyed God (v. 12)**

Haggai records that the nation responds to God's word given through Haggai and through Zerubbabel and Joshua. The response begins with Zerubbabel and Joshua. They hear God's correction and command and humbly believe. Their belief and apparent repentance are found in the fact that the word shared from Haggai to them was in turn shared with the people. All the people's hearts and minds are stirred to obey and do what God is commanding. This is obedience to not only stop selfishly sinning in disobedience, but to also return to the work God has called them to and build His house. They submit to the leaders (Haggai, Zerubbabel, and Joshua) and their fear the Lord. The people believe this is a genuine word from God, they have been corrected and have responded in humility and submission to God.

### **God Gives Hope! (v. 13)**

God has revealed the people's sin. The leaders receive the word and share it with the people. The leaders and the people respond in humble repentance and obedience. God then does something that rewards healthy response and empowers obedience. God speaks hope! God gives Haggai, the trusted prophet of God, a message and now Haggai addresses the people as a whole, including Zerubbabel and Joshua. God's previous words revealing sin and commanding obedience are now joined with God's words of hope. What does God say to the people? I AM WITH YOU! God knows their hearts and this word is a reminder of His presence. God reminds them of the loving relationship He has with His people. God reassures them that they are not abandoned nor are they rejected, even though they were disobedient. God reminds them that they have access to God's wisdom, strength, protection, resources, and peace. It is also a reminder that He will know their hearts and minds and will correct them if they need it. God's will is for His house to be built and for His people to build it. The house will be built and God will be glorified. God is with His people, always!

### **The Lord's People Get to Work (v. 14-15)**

Verse fourteen reads that God stirred the spirit of Zerubbabel, Joshua, and all the people. This was a great revival and return to glorifying God by all the people. God has brought them out of exile to their home country that was promised to their forefathers. The discipline that was enacted in the exile and occupation that brought about the destruction of the Solomonic temple, has been effective to correct the hearts and minds of the people. God is now fulfilling His word to build a new temple and dwell with His

people in this new temple. God causes His people to turn, and He stirs their spirit to work. They put their work on their individual houses on hold and focus collectively on building God's house, the temple. God action toward the people, God's promise to abide, and the people's response to obey and work to God's glory is emphasized in a two-word phrase. Haggai writes in Haggai 1:15 that Zerubbabel, Joshua, and all the people worked on God's house. Haggai repeats God's identity with "the Lord of hosts". This is the Lord of all heaven and earth. This is the great God and King (as David wrote in Psalm 145). Then Haggai, at God's inspiration, writes the two-word phrase, "their God". This gives the reader a deep understanding of the love God has for this people and their love for Him. God of the universe is the God of these people. They belong to Him and He is their God!

**God's Way is Greater! (SLIDE 8)**

**Our Way Apart from God is Sinful, Disobedient, and Destructive (SLIDE 9)**

**Our Identity and Desires**

Who we are

What we want

Image Bearers

**Our Relationships**

Marriage

Raising Children

Friendships

Revealing God

**Our Work**

Ethic

Honor and Gratitude

Glorifying God

**Our Worship**

Whole Life

God Focused

**God's Way is Greater and We Are to Join Him (SLIDE 10)**

God's Design for Us is Best

God's Work is Fulfilling

God's Way is Best for Us

We Want to Be Included in God's Glorious Work

**Those Who Live the Greater Way Belong to God (SLIDE 11)**

God's People Obey Him and Do His Will

Those Who Glorify God Are His

**You Are Our God and We Will Go Your Greater Way! (SLIDE 12)**

**Series Graphic (SLIDE 13)**