

UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

... the just shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2:4



HAGGAI

Faith In His Purpose

Consider Your Ways

Haggai 1:1-15

Lesson 19

Background Information

In 538 B.C. about fifty thousand Jews left Babylon and returned to their homeland to rebuild the temple and restore the nation. Two years later they laid the foundation of the temple, but the work was stopped by their enemies and was not resumed until 520 B.C. under the preaching of Haggai and Zechariah. Haggai gave four messages during a period of four months. His first task was to force them to see where their hearts and priorities really lay. His purpose was to appeal to their conscience and call the people to return to practical holiness receiving the blessing of the Lord as the result. His messages led to self-judgment and humility of soul.

When the conscience is not active, people readily interpret circumstances to suit themselves. God, through the prophet Haggai, appeals to the heart of the people to "*consider their ways,*" to see why everything they sought after resulted in nothing. God cannot bless self-seeking, He calls on each of us to judge ourselves and *see if we are in the way of the Lord.* It is a sobering thought that "our ways" manifest the condition of our soul.

The people responded quickly to Haggai's plea and exuberantly returned to the building project. Haggai will call us all to consider our priorities our allegiances and our ways to see if they are pleasing to the Lord.

*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.*

Matthew 6:33

Treasures of the Heart

**Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways!
Haggai 1:7**



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Haggai 1:1-6

1 In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, **2** "Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built." '

3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, **4** "[Is it] time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple [to lie] in ruins?" **5** Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! **6** "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages [to put] into a bag with holes."



Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps and cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. **What does God want you to know about Himself?**

Haggai 1:12-15

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 presence of the LORD. 13 Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, spoke the LORD's message to the people, saying, "I [am] with you, says the LORD."

14 So 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 sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.



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What does it mean?



What lesson can I draw from my observations? Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?” Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Haggai 1:1-6 _____

Haggai 1:7-11 _____

Haggai 1:12-15 _____

How can I apply it?



Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 *words* or less)

Haggai 1:1-6 _____

Haggai 1:7-11 _____

Haggai 1:12-15 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

What **D**id **G**od **S**ay?

God's Words to us reveal what He wants us to understand Who He is and know His ways. **See if you can discover God's sovereign rule behind the scenes – and how He expects His people to act in the midst of difficult circumstances. Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself and what He wants His people to understand.**

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

Define three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Haggai 1:1-6 _____

Haggai 1:7-11 _____

Haggai 1:12-15 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth...

Set your heart on your ways, it is a summons to self-judgment:
the ways manifest the state of the soul. - H. A. Ironsides

