

HAGGAI 1:12-15 | THE RESPONSE TO HAGGAI'S FIRST SERMON

- Verse 12 –
 - Haggai proclaimed the message, then the would-be King and the pseudo High Priest (since there was not Temple) led **the remnant of the people** to obey **the voice of the Lord their God**.
 - The **remnant** simple refers to “the remainder,” not the spiritual remnant that is read about in other places of the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - The people **obeyed the voice** of God and **the words of Haggai** recognizing that **the Lord their God had sent him**. While the people only heard words from Haggai, they recognized which voice was behind the words.
- Verse 13 –
 - At first glance the words **the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message** are a bit perplexing. The meaning (in a modern, post-prophetic age context) would be: *he spoke the word of God from the Word of God*). Much like saying of a pastor today, “when he speaks to us, we know it comes from God's Word, the Bible.”
 - The word from God through Haggai to the returned exiles: **I am with you**. This was much different than their experience and their warning in the previous verses.
 - The nation of Israel was living in an “age of obedience and repentance.”
 - It is easy to make the flawed assumption that if *any people anywhere* align themselves with God's ways (i.e.: repent), then God's blessings will immediately come.
 - In our age, God is not directly dealing with the behavior of man, and so this would be a false conclusion.
 - The same would have been true for other nations (China, for example) in Haggai's day. In that day, God was dealing directly with mankind through the nation of Israel. His activity was limited to the nation of Israel and those like Persia who were in relation to Israel and thus God's work.
- Verse 14 –
 - The phrase **the Lord stirred up the spirit** is fairly common in the Hebrew Scriptures (see 1 Chron. 5:26, Ezra 1:1, etc). It is used in both positive ways (as here) and negative (as Jer. 51:11). It is a mysterious work which cannot be replicated nor demanded. However, in all of its usages there is a *willingness* that precedes.
 - With this “new spirit” of work, cooperation, and diligence for the things of God, the nation came together and **did work in the house of the Lord of hosts**, the house which continued in an unfinished condition.
- Verse 15 –
 - This chronological note concludes the segment which begins in verse 1, thus chapter 1 covers a period of about three weeks.

HAGGAI 2:1-9 | THE FUTURE GLORY

- Verse 1 - This second **word of the Lord** comes one month and 21 days after the first (51 days).
- Verses 2-3 -
 - The Lord instructs Haggai to speak to the people, asking them to reminisce about **this house in her first glory** compared to its current shambles.
 - Ezra 3:12 speaks of some very old people who **had seen the first house** at the time of the reconstruction of the second.
- Verse 4 –
 - The instruction from the Lord is **be strong**, an instruction repeated three times for rhetorical, motivational purposes (reminding us that rhetoric really does matter).
 - The basis of their strength was to be the assurance that the **Lord of hosts** was with them.
- Verse 5 –
 - The strength of the people could be based on **the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt**.
 - This is likely a reference to passages such as Exodus 29:45.
 - This is one of over 1,500 references to the Pentateuch found in the prophets, giving evidence that the Pentateuch was indeed written in the times of Moses and not in the time of the exile, as liberal theologians maintain.
 - Just as God had covenanted, **So my spirit remaineth among you**. He had not forsaken them.
 - Note that this is God’s spirit and not the Holy Spirit (or at least not known as such at this time).
 - All oracles of God came with this spirit (compare Neh. 9:20 and Isaiah 63:10-14). When God’s spirit was with them, the nation was given revelation. Thus, Proverbs 29:18 speaks the truth that **where there is no vision, the people perish**.
- Verses 6-7 –
 - In verses 6-7 there is a prophetic shift for which the reader will immediately have curiosities aroused. The oracle has thus far concerned the rebuilding of the Temple. Now it appears to go to another event, one in which God **will shake the heavens** as well as **all nations** and at which time **the desire of all nations shall come**. After this, God promises to **fill this house with glory**. Even at first glance, this seems to go beyond the scope of the second Temple (the one originally in view).
 - When we look through scripture we discover the theme of an end-times shaking of the heavens, earth, and all nations (for example, Rev. 6:12-17).
 - After this shaking, the singular **desire of all nations** shall come. What is this **desire**? It is the fulfillment of the Genesis 3:15 promise, which will bless all the nations (Gen. 22:18, 49:10, Luke 2:10-11).
 - After He comes, **this house** (the Temple) will be filled **with glory**. This aligns with the prophecy of Ezekiel’s millennial Temple, and the time of peace after the Messiah arrives (Is. 60:18).
 - The prophecies of these verses simply were not fulfilled in the second Temple, and therefore must remain for the future millennial Temple.
- Verses 9-10 – *stay tuned!*