



Empowering People to Change the World

**Haggai:  
The Shaking and the Coming Harvest  
Part 1**

Steve Holt

# Haggai: The Shaking and the Coming Harvest

## Birthday of the Road

*I am growing to love Jesus with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength*

*I am growing to love people the way Jesus loves them*

*I am building up my faith with God's Holy Word*

*I am coming alive in the power of the Holy Spirit*

*With Jesus, all things are possible*

### Introduction:

- Before a Great Awakening there is often a Rude Awakening. This has happened to us as a church over the past two months. The Coronavirus has been a *rude awakening* leading to a *great awakening*.
- It was during the quarantine that God reminded me of a prophetic word I was given three years ago from the book of Haggai.
- Over the past two months the Holy Spirit has continued to lead me back to Haggai. Some of you were a part of the Zoom call I did on Haggai.
- I have been shaken! I will elaborate more on this later.

### A Little Background to this Powerful Prophetic Book

- The Jews have been captive in Babylon for 70 years.
- The Persian Emperor, Cyrus (in Ezra 1), 16 years earlier calls for the rebuilding of the temple.
  - Story of Cyrus coming to power is in Daniel 5. Babylon under Nebuchnezzar fell that night with the handwriting on the wall and the Persian army comes in without a fight.

- 10 days later, Josephus and other Jewish writings indicate that Daniel read Isaiah 44 and 45 as well as Jeremiah 25 to Cyrus showing the Emperor a letter outlining his career. Cyrus is really impressed with the Isaiah prophecy.
- So deeply moved was Cyrus that he followed the prophecy and called for Israel to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. This is called “The Edict of Restoration.”
- You can read the prophecy in Isaiah 45 but here are his words in **Ezra 1**

***In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:***

***<sup>2</sup> “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem. (Ezra 1:1-3)***

- Less than 50 thousand returned. Not a large group. Most of the Jews were content in Babylon. Not all Jews wanted to go back to Israel.
- Ezra 3-6 is our background.

### **Ezra 3~5:1-2**

- Take note: God used a secular ruler, a non-god-fearer it would seem, to get the Jews back! Amazing.
- Cyrus was a Fire Wall! Cyrus was able to use his political power to protect the Jews, release the Jews, infuse faith into the people.
- Numerous prophecies came from 2012-2016, before the election that God was raising up a man, prophesied from Isaiah 45, that the next president, the 45<sup>th</sup> president of the United States would Donald J.

Trump, as a “modern day Cyrus” a modern day firewall for God to rebuild America and rebuild the Church.

- But opposition came, opposition politically and the rebuilding stopped. And God raised up a prophet to inspire faith in the people again—Haggai.
- Haggai’s ministry was for only 4 months. Two Themes:
  - 1) Rebuilding of the Temple (classic theme).
  - 2) For the 21<sup>st</sup> century, I would say that Haggai’s theme is rebuilding the church because a harvest is coming!

### **Haggai 2:6-9**

***<sup>6</sup> “For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; <sup>7</sup> and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the Lord of hosts. <sup>8</sup> ‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup> ‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the Lord of hosts.”***

- Nothing has so shaken the world like the Coronavirus! Nothing.
- Not even WWII shook all the world!
- From the furthest villages of sub-Saharan Africa to India to New York, the entire world has been shaken!

**Theme: Haggai 2:6-9 God will shake the nations so that they come to the Desire of the nations!**

- The Church is the only answer to a rising tide of radical socialism, Marxism, and Islam.
- What does these different “ism’s” have in common—they thrive under chaos, disorder, and fear!

**Marxism believes chaos will bring “the design of the prime mover!”**

- According to Ludwig Von Mises, “Marxism is a revolutionary doctrine. It expressly declares that the design of the prime mover will be accomplished by civil war...The liquidation of all dissenters will establish the undisputed supremacy of the absolute eternal values...It is a device known and practiced from time immemorial. Kill the infidels. Burn the heretics! What is new is merely the fact that today it is sold to the public under the label of ‘science.’”

### **Radical Islam believes chaos will bring the Mahdi, the Messiah of Islam.**

- Joel Rosenberg writes, “[radical islam] believes that the Mahdi will come only when the world is engulfed in chaos and carnage. They openly vow not simply to attack but to annihilate the United States and Israel. Iran and ISIS are both eager to hasten the coming of the Mahdi.”
- **The only answer is a Kingdom of God Revolution!**
- Let’s now dig into Haggai. The year is 518 BC.

### **Haggai 1:1**

***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,***

### **A Challenge to the Leadership. Leaderships are Thermostats!**

- Zerubbabel and Joshua are the key leaders who lead Israel. This book is a prophetic book to leaders!
- Cyrus is dead. Darius has replaced him.
  - This prophecy is directed toward the leadership: political and spiritual.
  - Leaders are thermostats! Leaders must be **“on fire”** first!

- This is a prophecy to pastors in America!
- This is a prophecy to the Church in America!
- We will have to navigate the spiritual and political like never before. If the spiritual doesn't bleed into the political, we could lose all our freedoms .

## Haggai 1:2

***<sup>2</sup> “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.” ’ ”***

- The work ceases and the people just start building their own homes and taking care of their own affairs. They get used to the situation. Their desire to rebuild the Temple diminishes.
- The leaders and the people are fearful to rebuild and so they go back to taking care of themselves and their own affairs.
- Haggai is sent by God. This is a turning point for Israel. Haggai is very practical. We might call him the “shoe leather prophet.” He reminds us that God favors work.
- His style: very direct and practical.
- How many of you have been fired up about something only to experience opposition? Obstacles are difficult to handle in our lives. How easy it is to rationalize, “It’s not the Lord’s timing.”
- The clichés in the church where we say, “The Lord told me to...” but as soon as the way gets tough, suddenly the Lord tells us to do something else right? The Lord sure changes His mind a lot.
- It’s so easy to rationalize when the things aren’t going well or there is opposition.

## Haggai 1:3-5

<sup>3</sup> *Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying,* <sup>4</sup> *“Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?”* <sup>5</sup> *Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider your ways!*

- They are more concerned with their own lives rather than House of God.
- My grandfather was a very successful businessman, rancher, and owned a sawmill company. He once asked his wife and daughter (my mom) how can we spend all this money to re-carpet our home when the church has such a tattered carpet?
- What is your most important stewardship? Is it your money? Your job? Your family? Your marriage? No.
  - It’s your heart! Their problem is their heart.
- **Proverbs 4:23** *“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*
  - **Kingdom Revolution: Loving God with ALL of our heart, soul, mind, and strength!**

## Haggai 1:6

*“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.”*

- God’s judging them even then. They are working hard but not prospering. I wonder what we call “bad luck” when God is trying to get our attention? Difficulties come only for a purpose.
- The solution is obedience. Get going on what God has told us to do.

- God is using the Coronavirus to wake up America, to wake up the church.
- This is to us! We are God's people. The answer is the Prayer Room. Your War Room!

### **Haggai 1:7-11**

***<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways! <sup>8</sup> Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> "You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the Lord of hosts. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. <sup>10</sup> Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. <sup>11</sup> For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."***

- Before a Great Awakening there is often a Rude Awakening. This has happened to us church over the past two months. The Coronavirus has been a rude awakening to a great awakening.
- Build the House! This is very practical; No poetry; Direct, shoe leather practical.
- God gave me **Psalm 96:6** for our sanctuary at The Road. ***Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.***
- Being successful requires hard work. Lots of work. Persistence and a refusal to quit. The Holy Spirit never blesses laziness. We live in a day of "spectator sports" and "spectator Christianity."

### **2 Chronicles 7:13-14**

***<sup>13</sup> "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray***



***and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.***

- Zeal for their own interests!
- God is the one bringing the drought—no rain, no crops.

### **Haggai 1:12**

***<sup>12</sup> 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.***

- They obeyed God because they feared Him!
- America is teetering in the balance! We need a Revolution of the Fear of God!**

### **Haggai 1:13-15 Presence of the Lord**

***<sup>13</sup> Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, spoke the Lord's message to the people, saying, "I am with you, says the Lord." <sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.***

- The presence of the Lord in worship, in the Word, in your work, in your ways.
- These leaders are men of action! They are being awakened to their leadership call.
- Stirred up—to rouse; awaken, stir up, excite, raise up. To arouse to action, to open one's eyes. This phrase is used seventy-five times in the Old Testament; equivalent to an eagle stirring up its nest (Deuteronomy 32:11) or a musical instrument being warmed up before playing.

- Is God stirring up your heart today? Is God stirring up your spirit today?
  
- Do you want to make Jesus Lord over everything in your life?
  - Is God stirring your heart to place your finances under God?
  - Is God stirring your heart to place your internet viewing under God?
  - Is God stirring your heart to help us build a Kingdom of God Revolution at The Road?
  - This is the time! For such a time as this, will you join the movement of the Word and Spirit?