



Empowering People to Change the World

**Haggai:
The Shaking and the Coming Harvest
Part 2**

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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 to a great awakening.
- It was during the quarantine time that God reminded me of a prophetic word I was given three years ago from the book of Haggai.

Review from last week...

A Little Background to this Powerful Prophetic Book

- The Jews have been captive in Babylon for 70 years.
- Cyrus, a Persian Emperor (in Ezra 1), calls for the rebuilding of the temple.
- When Cyrus took over Babylon, according to Josephus (the great Jewish historian), Daniel read to Cyrus the prophecies about him from Isaiah 45 and Daniel 25. Cyrus is so moved by the Holy Spirit that he orders the Jews to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple.
- Ezra (chapters 3 through 6) is our background.
- Haggai's ministry was for only 4 months.

Two Themes:

1) Rebuilding of the Temple (classic theme).

2) For the 21st century, I would say that Haggai's theme is rebuilding the church because a harvest is coming!

Haggai 2:6-9

- Nothing has so shaken the world like the Coronavirus!
- 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 do these different "ism's" have in common? They thrive under chaos, disorder, and fear!
- 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.

Leaders are Thermostats. Leaders determine what gets done!

- Zerubbabel and Joshua are the key leaders who lead Israel. This book is a prophetic book to leaders!
- Cyrus is dead and 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

“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 they just start building their own homes and 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 is 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. It is easy to rationalize, “It’s not the Lord’s timing.”
- There are 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

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!"

- 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 diligence,
for out of it springs the issues 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 discipline always involves a holding back of blessing due to disobedience.

- 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

⁷ Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider your ways!⁸ 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. ⁹ “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. ¹⁰ Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. ¹¹ 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 the 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

¹³ “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, ¹⁴ 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

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.

- 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

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.

- 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 75 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?