

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 455 – The First Day Of The Month Through Day Twenty-Four (Haggai 1:1-15)

1. In the second year of Darius the king, why wasn't the Lord's house being built?

The people said the time had not come yet: *“(1) In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying, (2) Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built” (Haggai 1:1-2).*

- The enemies of God's people caused the work on the temple to cease until the second year of the reign of Darius the Persian king (**Ezra 4:1-24**).
- This was the time Haggai was a prophet (**Ezra 5:1**).
- The word came through Haggai to the governor which was Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel (**Ezra 5:2**; cf. **Haggai 2:23**).
- Also included was Joshua the son of Josedech [Jeshua the son of Jozadak; **Ezra 5:2**], the high priest. He was instrumental in the starting (**Ezra 3:8**) and the restarting of the building of the temple.
- Though the enemies of God's people stood in the way of the temple, the people apparently were all too comfortable with the ceasing of the work. The people say “The time is not come...” That is like the time Israel made excuses not to take the land God sent them to take (**Numbers 13:25-33**). That did not turn out well (**Numbers 14:1-38**). This stands for a lesson even for Christians not to cease the work of God (**Hebrews 3:7-4:11**).

2. When Haggai declared the word of the Lord, what was the first message presented to them to help them consider their ways?

*“(3) Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, (4) Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? (5) Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways” (Haggai 1:3-5).*

- Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet (**Genesis 15:1, Genesis 15:4, I Samuel 15:10, II Samuel 7:4, II Samuel 7:4, II Samuel 23:2, II Samuel 24:11, I Kings 6:11, I Kings 13:1, I Kings 13:20, I Kings 16:1, I Kings 17:2, I Kings 17:8, I Kings 18:1, I Kings 18:31, II Kings 20:4, II Chronicles 11:2, II Chronicles 12:7, Jeremiah 1:2-4, Jeremiah 1:13, Jeremiah 13:8, Ezekiel 1:3, Ezekiel 24:20, Ezekiel 33:23, Daniel 9:2, Haggai 2:20, Zechariah 4:8, Zechariah 7:4, II Peter 1:20-21, etc.**).
- The temple of the Lord was destroyed, by the will of God, when Judah was taken captive to Babylon (**II Chronicles 36:14-21** and **Jeremiah 52:12-14**).
- God wanted His house rebuilt, but the people were complacent. Indifference is not a good thing (**Isaiah 32:9-11, Amos 6:1-6, Zephaniah 1:12, and Matthew 25:1-13**).

- They should have cared greatly about the Lord's house (**Psalms 27:4** and **Psalms 122:1-9**).
- They needed to, as will be repeated in verse 7, consider their ways (**Lamentations 3:40**, **Ezekiel 18:27-28**, and **II Corinthians 13:5**).
- Remember, the Lord's ways and man's ways are not the same (**Isaiah 55:6-9**).

3. When Haggai declared the word of the Lord, what was the second message presented to them to help them consider their ways?

*"(6) Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. (7) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways" (**Haggai 1:6-7**).*

- Since they were not doing the will of God, they sowed much and gained little (**Hosea 8:1-7**).
- Under the Old Law, the gains and losses of Israel were directly affected by their faithfulness to God (**Deuteronomy 29:9**, **Joshua 1:7**, and **Hosea 10:12-13**).
- More on this in verses 9-11

4. If they would have gotten to work on the house of the Lord, would the Lord have been pleased?

*Yes: "Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD" (**Haggai 1:8**).*

- The desire of God was for His house to be built in Zion (**Psalms 132:13-14**).
- If built, He would fill it with His glory (**Haggai 2:7**; cf. **Exodus 29:43**).

5. Was the Lord behind their lack of gain and the conditions of drought they faced?

*Yes: "(9) Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. (10) Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. (11) And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands" (**Haggai 1:9-11**).*

- See notes on question 3, verse 6.
- Bloweth upon it (**Isaiah 40:7**).
- A curse for not hearing the Lord's will (**Malachi 2:2**).
- How? God did not send moisture from above (**Deuteronomy 28:15**; **28:23-24** and **Jeremiah 14:1-6**).
- When Israel was obedient to God, they were given more than what they needed to live on this earth (**Deuteronomy 28:1-14**).
- Now, He had caused a drought. It is good to remember that fruitful seasons are from the Lord (**Acts 14:17**).

6. Was Haggai's message received favorably?

Yes: *"Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, 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 did fear before the LORD" (Haggai 1:12).*

- **Psalms 112:1** and **Proverbs 1:7**

7. What happened on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king?

*"(13) Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith 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 Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, (15) In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king" (Haggai 1:13-15).*

- They obeyed, so God was with them that they needed not to fear consequences of man for doing His will (**Zechariah 10:5-6**).
- The Lord stirred up the spirit of the leaders of the people (**Exodus 35:20-29**, **Ezra 1:1**, and **Acts 17:16**).
- They got to work on the 24th day of the sixth month. The chapter started with the 1st day of the sixth month.