

## Supplementary Materials for KOOL Journal for Parents/Adults

Week 8: 12 to 18 March, 2018 (pp. 66 – 72)

### Context

The Jews who had returned from Babylon in 538 BC to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem with initial enthusiasm were not able to finish their work because they let the opposition turn their attention towards building their own houses instead. On 29 August 520 BC, the prophet Haggai delivered a message to encourage the people to resume the work.

Three things set this prophet apart. First, each of Haggai's message is carefully dated, even to the day. Second, the people acted on his exhortation, unlike many Old Testament prophets. Third, rebuilding the Temple is linked with the 'shaking of the nations' – the coming of the Messiah to establish the kingdom promised by the Lord.

**Key Characters No.1: Haggai** -- Refer to Week 3 journal supplement.

### Key Characters No.2: Zerubbabel

Under the leadership of Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, the Temple was quickly started but soon two problems arose. A few elders were saddened when they compared how much smaller this Temple was compared to Solomon's glorious temple which they remembered. Also some enemies of the Jews tried to stop the rebuilding with political pressure and fear caused the work to be stopped. People began to focus on building their own homes and 16 years passed. During this period, what Zerubbabel did was not known but he had allowed problems and resistance to stop the rebuilding work. His discouragement must have been deep and such feelings had hardened into hopelessness. So God sent Haggai and Zechariah to be Zerubbabel's encouraging companions, and with their exhortation, the temple was completed. It is noteworthy that Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, is found in Jesus' genealogy and mentioned twice in the New Testament: Matt 1:12 and Luke 3:27.

### 12 to 18 March: Haggai Chapter 1

- Watch video: Overview of Haggai: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/haggai/>
- Another overview by David Pawson is as follows:

HAGGAI	
<b>1. A DEPRESSED PEOPLE</b> (1:1-11) 1 / 8 / 2 YOUR HOUSES--DECORATED MY HOUSE--DEVASTATED	
<b>2. A DETERMINED PEOPLE</b> (1:12-15) 24 / 8 / 2 FEARED THE LORD OBEYED THE LORD	
<b>3. A DISCOURAGED PEOPLE</b> (2:1-9) 21 / 7 / 2 FORMER HOUSE--GLORIOUS LATTER HOUSE--GREATER	
<b>4. A DEFILED PEOPLE</b> (2:10-19) 24 / 9 / 2 CLEAN DOESN'T MAKE DIRTY CLEAN DIRTY DOES MAKE CLEAN DIRTY	<b>5. A DESIGNATED PRINCE</b> (2:20-23) 24 / 9 / 2 OTHER THRONES OVERTURNED THIS THRONE OCCUPIED
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### Review Verse of the Week **Haggai 1:7**

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."*

Date/Read/Watch	Reflection and Response (R & R)
<p><b>Mon. 12 March</b></p> <p>1:1-4</p> <p>{ 1:1-2}</p>	<p>The first people Haggai spoke to were the leaders: Zerubbabel and Joshua as the spiritual leaders who had to give the direction and set the example. His message to them was God’s asking His people how they could put their energies to beautifying their own homes and live in luxury when His house was lying in ruins. The Temple was the focal point of Judah’s relationship, but it was still demolished. The people had used the opposition from their enemies as an excuse to start building their own houses instead.</p> <p><b>R &amp; R:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many good works have been intended, but not done, because men supposed the proper time was not come. Are we prone to give excuses for doing God’s work in the face of discouragement?</li> <li>• What happens in churches where leaders do not model what they teach?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tue. 13 March</b></p> <p>Haggai 1:5-6</p> <p>{Haggai 1:5-6}</p>	<p>“Give careful thought to your ways” is first stated here but is repeated another four times in the book of Haggai. The people were asked to consider what mattered in their hearts. The harder the people worked for themselves, the less they had because they neglected their spiritual lives. The same happens to us: if we put God first, He will provide for our deepest needs; if we put Him last, all our efforts will be futile. Caring only for our physical needs while ignoring our walk with God will lead to ruin.</p> <p><b>R &amp; R:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the curses of disobedience that are applicable to the nation of Israel as found in Deut 28: 15-68. In contrast, we are promised the blessings of serving Jesus – Does knowing this motivate us to give our talents and our time to Him?</li> <li>• What do the verses Matt 6:19-20,31,33 teach us? Memorise Matt 6:33.</li> </ul> <p>“To store up treasures in heaven, we must make it our priority to build God’s eternal kingdom.” (<a href="http://www.lifeessentialsstudybible.com">www.lifeessentialsstudybible.com</a>)</p>
<p><b>Wed. 14 March</b></p> <p>Haggai 1:7-8</p> <p>{Haggai 1:7-8}</p>	<p>The second repetition of the call to reflection (“Give careful thought to your ways” in 1:7) is needed. They are not only to repent, but to bring forth fruits of repentance, implying immediate personal effort is needed. Not costly offerings are desired, but a willing mind and a willing heart.</p> <p><b>R &amp; R:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone should undertake self-examination and communion with our own hearts concerning our spiritual state. What do our own hearts dwell on?</li> <li>• “Sin is what we must answer for; duty is what we must do.” Is there any duty that has been neglected?</li> </ul> <p>Whatever God will take pleasure in when done (rebuilding His house), we ought to take pleasure in doing.</p>

<p><b>Thu. 15 March</b></p> <p>Haggai 1:9-11 {Haggai 1:9-11}</p>	<p>Grain, grapes for wine and olives for oil were Israel’s major crops. The people depended on these for their security while neglecting the worship of God. Consequently, God sent a drought to destroy their livelihood and call them back to Himself. Because the people had not given God first place in their lives, their work was not fruitful or productive and their material possessions did not satisfy. Moses had predicted that this would be the result if the people neglected God (Deut 28:38-45).</p> <p><b>R &amp; R:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobs, homes, vacations and leisure activities may rank higher than on our list of importance than God. Where is God on your list of priorities?</li> <li>• What is most important to you?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fri. 16 March</b></p> <p>Haggai 1:12-15 {Haggai 1:12-14}</p>	<p>The people began rebuilding the Temple just 23 days after Haggai’s first message because they “feared the LORD” (1:12), recognizing that He is the LORD Almighty who as the King of Kings directed the kings from Cyrus to Darius to provide the permission and the resources needed to rebuild the temple. The three intervening weeks were spent in planning and preparing materials, and obtaining workmen from the neighbouring villages. Rarely did a prophet’s message produce such a quick response. The people turn a willing ear to Haggai’s exhortation, and the prophet is now charged to inform them of the return of God’s favour because of their obedience (1:12), in the gracious utterance, “I am with you, declares the Lord.”</p> <p>Note: ‘... the remnant of the people’ (1:12; 2:2) refers to the people who had returned from the Captivity, being only a small portion of all Israel.</p> <p><b>R &amp; R:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...” (Psalm 100:10). What will result when we fear the Lord? See Psalm 25:12 -14.</li> <li>• When you hear a sermon from God’s Word, do you ask what you should do about it or make plans to act on it? If not, why not?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sat. 17 March</b></p>	<p>Review the whole chapter 1 again.</p> <p><b>R &amp; R:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider lessons from Zerubbabel’s life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leaders need to provide not only the initial motivation for a project but the continued encouragement necessary to keep the project going.</li> <li>○ Even leaders must find their own dependable source of encouragement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As members of the local church, how can we encourage and support our leaders?</li> <li>• How do we help each other to get our personal priorities right?</li> </ul>

**References:**

G A Getz, **Life Essentials Study Bible: Biblical Principles to Live By**, Holman Bible Publishers, 2011.

<https://bibleprinciples.org/the-life-essentials-study-bible/> (search videos by book: Haggai)

Tyndale House Publishers, **Chronological Life Application Study Bible**, 2004.

<http://biblehub.com/commentaries/haggai/1-15.htm>