

Haggai – An Introduction

April 17, 2016

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Haggai 1:1,12

Pastor Mark W. Turner

Haggai Background:

- Opens with 520 B.C.
- One of 12 minor prophets, One of last 3 to speak for God in OT
- Written 16 years after the return of God's people from exile in 536 B.C. due to Cyrus Edict. Jer 29:10; Ezra 1:2-4
- The remnant who returned started rebuilding Ezra 2&3
- Opposition arose Ezra 4:1-24 until work stopped
- God sends Haggai with the word of the Lord to His people after 16 years of frustration.
- Our God is merciful & long-suffering Exod 34:6-7

The Word of the Lord

1:1

- **Came To:**
 - to Leaders & people
 - a **specific** word through a **specific** man to a **specific** people at a **specific** time expecting a **specific** obedience
- **Word of the Lord**
 - a specific command from God to His people
 - "do you believe God has given you the Word of the Lord" to be obeyed in YOUR life?
 - We have Word abundantly, but do we treasure it?
 - Psa 138:2; Psa 119
 - Do you read, study, and memorize it?
 - Let us be like believers at Pentecost: Act 2:37-38
- **The Response** 1:12
 - obedience to the word & fear of the Lord
 - Apply: what is our response???
 - May we be like 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - may we RECEIVE the Word of God...
 - may we accept it as the Word of God, not men
 - may it be at work in us - changing us and conforming us into the image of Christ Jesus

Discuss & Apply:

- Should EVERY Christian put God & obedience to His Word first or is this just for 'full-time' Christian workers? Defend biblically.
- Think about and discuss how the people of Haggai's day are similar to and different from us today?
- How should we study, obey & practice the Word of the Lord? Be specific and share what that looks like or what you want it to look like in your life?
- How could OCC better hear the Word of the Lord? What would that look like? Be specific.

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