

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Haggai 1:1-15

Lesson 2

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. How has the Background and Introduction to Haggai increased your desire to study this book?
2. Haggai received a challenging assignment from the Lord. The Jewish people needed to be motivated and inspired to return to the work of rebuilding the Temple which had been abandoned for 16 years. The Lord sent His prophet Haggai to urge them to do this. Read Haggai 1:1-15 and give this chapter a brief title.
3. To receive the most benefit from your study this week write a prayer using the following scriptures as a guideline for your prayer.

*Teach me, O LORD. . . Give me understanding . . .
Direct me in the path of Your commands
for there I find delight.
Psalm 119:33a-35 NIV*

SECOND DAY: Read Haggai 1:1,2

1. Haggai is the one of the shortest books in the Old Testament, yet it faithfully communicated the Lord's message to the Jews living in Jerusalem. Haggai 1:1 records important details concerning the Word of the LORD. Read verse 1 and answer the following questions:
 - a. When was the message given?
 - b. Who received the message?
 - c. To whom was it directed?

Advanced Students: Research and write a brief statement identifying the two men, Zerubbabel and Joshua, mentioned in Haggai 1:1.

2. Throughout the Book of Haggai you will discover that the words *speake*th, *spake*, *saith* and *saying* are frequently used. Notice Haggai 1:2a: *Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying. . .* Print the first words the Lord spoke to Haggai from verse 2b here.
 - a. What does this reveal about the spiritual condition of these *people*?
 - b. The Lord saw their hearts and knew what they were saying. Read Hebrews 4:13. How should this awareness affect the way we live?

Optional: Compare Ezra 4:24-5:2 with Haggai 1:1 and note your findings.

3. Read Hebrews 1:1,2a. How does recognizing that God has spoken in the past and continues to speak to us today minister to you?

THIRD DAY: Read Haggai 1:3-6

1. The Lord had a solemn message for His people. The prophet declared in Haggai 1:3: *Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying. . .* Observe what He said by reading verses 4-6. In verse 4 the word *ceiled* means *paneled*. What convicting question did the Lord ask the Jewish people? verse 4

a. What did the Lord urge them to do? Answer by printing verse 5b in all caps.

(1.) Define the word *consider*.

2. Instead of making the rebuilding of the Temple their priority, the Jews were pursuing their own self-interests. Record phrases from Haggai 1:6 that describe their activities and show their futility without the blessings of God:

ACTIVITY	FUTILITY
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

f. What message is there in this for us today?

g. Why is it important for each of us to *consider our ways*?

3. What does Proverbs 16:25 declare about man's *ways*?

a. What example is there for us in Psalm 119:59 and Lamentations 3:40?

4. With Haggai 1:6 in mind read Isaiah 55:1-3. What do you see?

a. How does John 6:27 amplify this?

FOURTH DAY: Read Haggai 1:7-11

1. Pastor Chuck says: *God pointed out to the people that things hadn't been going so well for them lately. Their lives hadn't been fruitful.* Once again they were instructed by the LORD of Hosts to *consider their ways* (Haggai 1:7). What did He tell them to do according to Haggai 1:8a?

a. Ponder the two-fold promise of verse 8b as you write it here.

(1.) How does this minister to you?


2. What does Haggai 1:9-11 reveal about the personal consequence to the people of Judah for neglecting the house of the Lord?

a. Contrast their frustrations with the promises of Proverbs 3:9,10. Share your observations.

(1.) What is the condition of these promises?

3. What instruction and promise is given to us in Matthew 6:33?

a. Suggest one or two practical ways that we can *seek first the kingdom of God*.

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.
-selected *

FIFTH DAY: Read Haggai 1:12-15

1. Although the events recorded in Haggai 1:12-15 occurred centuries ago, they continue to provide inspiration and application. After hearing the word of the Lord, how did Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people respond? Answer from Haggai 1:12.
 - a. Think about their response; they *obeyed the voice of the LORD and did fear before the LORD*. The word *fear* means *reverential awe*. What relationship do you see between obedience and the fear of the Lord?

 - b. Share how their obedience is an example for you.

2. Center your mind and heart on the Lord's promise as you complete Haggai 1:13, *Then spake Haggai the LORD's messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying:*

_____ , saith the _____ .
 - a. How would this have affected them?

 - b. With verse 13b in mind, read Matthew 28:20b and Hebrews 13:5b,6. How do these verses minister to you today?

3. Read Haggai 1:14,15. How did the Lord further persuade Zerubbabel, Joshua, and all the remnant of the people to do the work on the house of the LORD? Answer from Haggai 1:14.
 - a. Pastor Chuck says: *The spirits of the leaders and the others were stirred up by the Lord, and they came and worked on the house of the Lord . . . How can you tell if a church is being stirred in their spirits? They get to work on the things of the Lord. They want to volunteer to help out. You don't have to beg or coerce them. They are just driven by God to serve.* How does this speak to you?

4. Twenty-three days after hearing the message *they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts*. Haggai 1:14c NKJV How does their quick response minister to you?

. . . the Temple of the great God in the province of Judah . . . is being rebuilt . . .
The work is going forward with great energy and success.
Ezra 5:8b NLT

SIXTH DAY: Review Haggai 1:1-15

1. Write a brief summary of the events recorded in Haggai 1:1-15.

2. How does the exhortation to *consider your ways* speak to you?

3. Record a discovery you made through your study this week about the following:
 - a. priorities

 - b. obedience

4. In light of this week's lesson what promises can we expect to claim as we obey the Lord?

5. Share a way Haggai 1:1-15 challenged, encouraged or inspired you.

*"I am with you" is the answer to any fears, doubts, or apprehensions.
When the task seems to be overwhelming
and you don't know how you are going to do it,
the word of the Lord is sufficient.
-Pastor Chuck*