

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI  
"Restoration from Haggai"

Introduction

1. Haggai was an older man, hence his messages carried peculiar strength. He may actually have seen Solomon's temple (2:3).

2. Bolstered by Zechariah, Haggai urged Israel to rebuild. Restoration was the keynote of his prophecy.

3. God aims at restoration for those who have fallen. To accomplish this goal, He uses varied methods. Haggai illustrates some of these methods. Mark them well.

1. ADMONITION--message of rebuke. September 1.

Here the prophet appeals to the nation to "consider your ways" (1:5,7). How great is the need to do this. To see our real selves! Note the ways Haggai wanted Israel to consider:

1. Procrastination (1:2).
2. Accommodation (1:4).
3. Devastation (1:9-11).

The whole point of this message is that God sees us! We are dull and blind to our own needs, BUT GOD calls us to view things as He sees them!

2. COMMENDATION--message of comfort. September 24.

It is heartening that those who are told their need often respond and do something about it. Such was the case with Israel. How precious to read about:

1. Their obedience to God (1:12).
2. Their fear of the Lord (1:12).
3. Their work unto the Lord (1:14).

This section emphasizes the fact that God is not unmindful of our genuine work of faith. It IS true that God watches us.

3. CONSIDERATION--message of cheer. October 21.

With glimpses of what He will do in the future, the Lord gives cheer and great joy to His people in the now. How glorious to read of His encouragement:

1. His presence: "I am with you". (2:4)
2. His power: "I will shake" (2:6,7).
3. His promise: "I will fill. . .give peace" (2:7,9).

The Lord can never be outstripped in giving. This is generously pointed out in these verses. God outgives us!

4. RESTORATION--message of assurance. December 24.

How beautifully the Lord leads His dear children along. Restoration really comes through cleansing. To effect this needed restoration, the prophet urges the nation to:

1. Recognize the Word of God (2:12-14).  
Turning to the law thru the priests will bring His Word!
2. Recognize the Hand of God (2:15-19).  
Looking over the past events will evidence God's gracious desire to restore through cleansing.  
Hallelujah! God restores us!

5. SATISFACTION--message of certainty. December 24.

There is no more wonderful truth than this: satisfaction wrought through the work of God in hearts. God cares for us - is a truth surely to be believed. Consider this support:

1. His triumph over opposition (2:22).
2. His delight over selection (2:23).

Conclusion. The example of Israel in her return from captivity and ultimate restoration is suggestive of our relation with God. In and thru our Substitute, the Lord yearns to have us in complete fellowship with Himself. This He will accomplish thru grace!  
AmEn.