
Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

Session 8 – Haggai 1:12 Part 2

The only way to understand the Old Testament and fit it together is to put in the time to read it multiple times. The Old Testament is not written in chronological order. Some have asked if they should get a chronological Bible. Sure, that might be helpful to some. There is just no substitute for time spent reading and rereading it.

The foundation we have laid will greatly enhance our understanding when we get to our study of the Kings.

Last session in Haggai 1:12 we saw everyone (religious leader, political leader and the people) obeying and doing what Haggai had told them to do and considered why...seeing that they had learned from the captivity and destruction that had occurred.

Many times just one verse can really enhance our understanding. Joshua is approaching the end of his life and says:

Joshua 22:5

5 Only be very careful to **observe** the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to **love the Lord your God**, and to **walk in all his ways** and to **keep his commandments** and to **cling to him** and to **serve him with all your heart and with all your soul**.

This one verse, if it had been heeded, would have avoided all the turmoil that occurred over the next 400-year period of Judges. During Judges we see the cycle of the COI hitting bottom, crying out to God, God raising up a Judge, there is a time of rest and peace, the COI being disobedient, hitting bottom again and the cycle repeated. It is a portrayal of our human nature.

It is the same in our current environment. Often people have to hit bottom before they will cry out to God. Some never cry out & never accept Christ even though their lives are a trainwreck.

Think deeply on what God desires:

Observe the Word

Love the Lord your God

Walk in all his ways

Keep his commandments

Cling to him –with his people

Serve him with all your heart and relationship with all your soul

Today people all around us are in so much pain. They are suffering the consequences of sin, usually unknowingly. We do learn over time that there is doing it right and getting fruit or doing it wrong and getting consequences.

Example of Michael's time as a running coach. Team was taught to stretch and strengthen

before running to avoid injury. Someone would come to him with a torn hamstring because he had reaped the consequences of failing to stretch and strengthen. Side-lined for not following the rules.

Example of Pro Football's preseason training camp. This is necessary preparation to avoid injury, which is often the consequence of not being in proper shape.

Some learn and decide to live their lives "God's Way" and reap the blessings and favor of being in his presence. Some people just do not take God seriously.

Jeremiah 3:6-10

6 The Lord said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there **played the whore?**

The relationship between God and the COI was similar to a marriage. They were required to be faithful to God and to cling to Him, and if they did not, it was the equivalent of spiritual adultery.

7 And I thought, 'After she has done all this, she will return to me,' but she did not return, and **her treacherous sister Judah saw it.**

You'd have thought that Judah would have seen what happened to Israel and learned from it, but she did not!

8 She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. **9** Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree.

Judah took her whoredom lightly! The just did not take God and His Word seriously. Today people do not take God's Word seriously. Even Christians don't take Him seriously. I go to church on Sunday and the rest is my life.

10 Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but **in pretense**, declares the Lord."

They went through the motions of sacrifices and feasts but did not seriously return to Him and take Him seriously. But the WORD IS TRUE.

Solomon at the end of his life summarized this:

Ecclesiastes 12:11-13

11 The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. **12** My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.** **14** For God will bring every deed into judgment, with **every secret thing, whether good or evil**

We need to recognize that God is omnipresent. He knows our every thought.

Psalm 139:1-4

[1](#) O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

[2](#) You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

[3](#) You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

[4](#) Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

[14](#) For God will bring every deed into judgment, with^d every secret thing, whether good or evil

There is nothing that is secret from God. He knows ALL.

We will all appear before the judgement seat of Christ to receive the rewards for what we have done according to I Corinthians.

What Words Delivered by Haggai did they obey?

We looked at Haggai 1:12 last session and that fact that all had obeyed. However we did not look at exactly WHAT they had obeyed. What Word from Haggai did they obey?

We will review Haggai 1:12 then go back to see what he had told them.

Haggai 1:12

[12](#) Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, 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 feared the Lord.

Here is what they obeyed...

Haggai 1:1

[1](#) In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

Look at the specificity here! The commentaries have put this together and say it was August 29, 520 BC

We know from Ezra the context of this. It was in 538 BC that Cyrus told the COI in captivity in Babylon (modern day Persia) that they could return to Israel.

Let's look again at what they did when they returned as recorded in Ezra. First they rebuilt the altar.

Ezra 3:1-7

[1](#) When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem. [2](#) Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, **and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it**, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. [3](#) They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening. [4](#) **And they kept the Feast of Booths**, as it is written, and **offered the daily burnt**

offerings by number according to the rule, as each day required, [5](#) and after that the regular burnt offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the **appointed feasts of the Lord**, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the Lord. [6](#) From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord. But the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid. [7](#) So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

The first thing they did was to build an altar. We see they were being careful to do the law. The next step is to rebuild the Temple.

[8](#) Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the Lord. [9](#) And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.

[10](#) And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the directions of David king of Israel. [11](#) And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

“For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

Finally God’s Work is underway. Whenever this is the case there is going to be opposition and that is what can be seen in Ezra 4:1-3. So there was a cessation of the work rebuilding the temple.

Ezra 4:4

[4](#) Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build [5](#) and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia

So the COI got discouraged even until the reign of Darius. So Cyrus is no longer reigning, now it is Daruis, back to Haggai 1:2

It took 20 years from when they began rebuilding the temple till when they finished it.

What does Haggai do?

Haggai 1:2

[2](#) “Thus says the Lord of hosts: **These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.**” [3](#) Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, [4](#)

“Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? **5** Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: **Consider your ways.**

Wake up time! Take a look at your life. Your time, your values, your priorities.

6 You have sown much and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

7 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: **Consider your ways.**

Here we see the COI preoccupied with their OWN STUFF. God is saying isn't it time to get busy? You have spent so much time just focused on your own stuff. And what happens as a result?

eating – not enough

drinking – not full

clothe – but not warm

money - you spend money like water

People today are concerned with their own STUFF.

How often do we think and say we want to get busy with the things of God, but we just have to do thus or so first. There is more to life than this.

God does not reprove them for idolatry. They are supposed to be focused on Him.

People today get their own lives in order and just stop. Life is good so they just move on in that way. Especially true in retirees.

People! Eternity is coming. We are going to stand before the Lord. We should be living for God. Worshipping Him. We should be building the Body of Christ. That is the project we should be working on.

I Corinthians 3:8-16

8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. **9** For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled^b master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **11** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13** each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. **14** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. **16** Do you not know that **you^s are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?** **17** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

We are to build ourselves up with the Word, then build one another up. People complain about minor things like their fish being too dry in a fine restaurant, meanwhile Muslims recently burned down 60 Christian churches. Pause and consider that!

Back to Haggai

Haggai 1:8

8 Go up to the hills and bring wood and **build the house**, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.

Plan! Prepare! Get busy! Build GOD'S HOUSE.

9 You looked for much, and behold, it came to little.

People today look for much. All the wealth, comfort, success etc. and it comes to little because they are not looking in the right place.

And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, **while each of you busies himself with his own house**.

This is 520 BC! Does this not speak to us today? My stuff, my cars, my vacation, my family, my finances, my investments, my renovation...and people are never happy.

The only thing that is going to stand is what we do for God.

10 Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. **11** And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."

When God's way is followed, fruit is produced.

When we go our own way we are going to be frustrated never satisfied.

In the light of those eleven verses, finally they ALL obeyed. They ALL feared the Lord.

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, 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 feared the Lord. 13** Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke to the people with the Lord's message,

LOOK at God's response!

"I am with you, declares 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 Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. **And they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, 15** on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

So it took them 3 weeks to get all the materials together, then they got to work on rebuilding the temple!

So they:

came back and built an altar for sacrifices

started observing all the sacrifices and feasts

opposition came

got distracted into doing their own stuff (so human)

We have all done this same thing. Each of us has a calling from the Lord. I want to do my calling but FIRST I have to do X,Y,Z. After I take care of my stuff I will...

God says what about MY STUFF???

We have cell phones now. We can look at who's calling and decide to take or not take a call.

Are we going to answer GOD'S CALL?

Every one of us has a calling. Are we going to take the call?

The call to all of us in USA 2023 can be seen here:

Romans 13:11-4

[11](#) Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. [12](#) The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. [13](#) Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. [14](#) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

When it speaks of salvation in this respect it means the fullness of our salvation has not been accomplished yet. We haven't yet experienced the return of Christ and been clothed with our new bodies.

Each day we get to live is a day nearer, each is a gift from God.

What are we going to do with it?

What are we going to do to bless and glorify God and help build the body of Christ?

