



SET YOUR HEART ON YOUR WAYS

Arrange your priorities right and put our Lord first; with continuous and real repentance; don't be overwhelmed by frustration; God will work with you and accept your job and rejoice in it and bless you with very great blessings.

- + **Meaning of the name:** Hagi or Haggai, meaning feast.
- + **The period of the prophecy:** after the return from exile.
- + **Time period:** His prophecy began in 520 BC (the days of a king named Darius, other than the days of Daniel) and lasted about 4 months.
- + **His most important achievements:** He succeeded in returning the people to their enthusiasm to continue building the Temple again.
- + **Circumstances of writing:** At that time, Zerubbabel began to return from captivity and construction began, but due to the resistance of the Samaritans (who were settlers of the land at the time), construction stopped for 16 years (from 536 BC to 520 BC). Then the people were lazy and they focused on building their houses and left the house of our Lord.
- + **To whom is the book directed?** Zerubbabel the leader and Joshua the priest (in the southern kingdom of Judah, after returning from exile).
- + **Book goal:**
 - Encouragement to build the house of the Lord: Come on, let's build the house of our Lord (because the building was stopped at the time).
 - He talks about the joy in our lives if we turn to build the temple (our hearts) and how our Lord will be with us.
- + **Key to Understanding the Book:**

The Temple in the Old Testament = Two points in the New Testament:

 - 1- Church at the collective level.
 - 2- My heart (on the individual level) As St. Paul said: You are the temple of God.

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+ The book in 4 points:

1- Arranging priorities:

- At this time, the people began to return from captivity/exile at the hands of Zerubbabel the leader, and a beautiful renaissance began in the rebuilding of the temple, which was completely destroyed at the time of the captivity.
- But unfortunately, with some harassment and threats, the people stopped building the Temple; There was a state of laziness, and people said that this was not a suitable time to build the Temple again; We wait for a while.
- So the people departed from building the temple and from caring for it, and each one began to be busy building his house and caring for his luxury.
- Of course, with this situation, the blessing is absent; People work a lot for themselves, but with little blessing, and there is no feeling of satiety and wealth.
- Therefore, our Lord sent the prophet Haggai to get the people back to build the temple again.
- If it was for the lack of capabilities (construction tools), then the issue is not a problem; they can find the construction tools themselves and complete.
- The first time the people heard these words, they were afraid and excited again for work, and the first of them was the great leader Zerubbabel.
- And our good and encouraging God, once his people, began to return again, and he promised them that he would be with them.
- And indeed the construction was back in operation, and the people understood how to arrange their priorities.

+ What do we learn?

- We must arrange our priorities in life; We can't neglect our relationship with our Lord and be lazy for any reason; And if we drifted or neglected a little, we immediately rise, repent and build, and our good God forgives us and gives us a blessing at once.
- Lord, give me the desire to work for the glory of your name.



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+ The book in 4 points:

2- Correct expectations:

- After a month of construction and work, the people looked at the shape of the temple and began to despair. This despair was due to expectations; They were comparing the temple they built with the great temple that Solomon built (which was seen & witnessed by the elders among them). They got low self-esteem that they would not be able to reach the level of the old temple in terms of size and luxury.
- But our good and great God corrects their vision and comforts them Our Lord sent Haggi with a second prophecy telling the people to be encouraged and not discouraged; Our Lord says to them: I am still on my pact with you from the hour I brought you out of the land of Egypt; I am still with you.
- On the contrary, this temple will witness a great blessing that the temple of Solomon did not witness. The Lord of glory Himself will incarnate and come and teach in this temple (this is the temple in which our Lord taught and expelled the pigeon sellers).
- God corrected their view: I am not looking at the luxury that is in the building; I own the land and what is in it. I am looking at your fatigue and effort, and that's why this house for me is greater than Solomon's temple.

+ What do we learn?

- Each one gets his wages according to his hard work; Don't compare your capabilities with the capabilities of others, so you get low self-esteem; Say, O Lord, and work, and our good God will be glorified.
- Lord, give me a blessing and never despair; Let me give you all my limited capabilities, and you bless, For it is you who fed the five thousand with two fish and five loaves.



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+ The book in 4 points:

3- The importance of repentance and its blessings:

- Two months after the second prophecy, our Lord sent Haggi to warn the people of a very important point: Repentance is necessary so that the work is accepted.
- Our Lord gave them an example to show them that sin is contagious and very dangerous, while righteousness and holiness are a personal need that requires effort, and we cannot be acquired by other deeds.
- And no matter how much effort the people make in building, if there is no pure, sincere, and continuous life of repentance, there will be no blessing in it.
- And as usual, our good God reassures his people: With serious repentance, our Lord will remove the lack of blessing in your life, on the contrary, He will bless you greatly and give the earth abundantly its fruits.

+ What do we learn?

- Service does not work without repentance. I must always observe and hold myself accountable. I offer continuous repentance and strive for purity
- O Lord, give me, that I will not be distracted from you by working for your account, Let me always understand that repentance is the most important thing so that I will not be rejected.



+ The book in 4 points:

4- The Lord's Day

- On the same day, God sent Haggai with a very beautiful prophecy of the Lord's Day.
- And the Lord's Day has two meanings in the Bible: The Day of the Cross and the Day of Judgment. What is meant here is the Day of Judgment.
- On the Day of Judgment, our Lord will judge the wicked with justice; and reward the righteous according to their righteousness.
- And the greatest blessing for the righteous is closeness to our Lord. He will be glorified in us. Whoever sets his heart on his path will obtain the good portion.
- Like Zerubbabel, who was a symbol of Christ in that he brought his people back to Jerusalem from captivity, and built the Temple (God's dwelling with people in the Old Testament).

+ What do we learn?

- The day of the Lord is a dreadful day for the wicked, but a glorious day for everyone who sets his heart on his way and does not miss this day, and is constantly on repentance.
- O Lord, give me a life of pure and perpetual repentance, that I may deserve to hear your voice filled with joy, and be like a ring in your hand.



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+ Verses summarizing the Book:

This people say's, the time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built

Haggai 1: 2

- Isn't the time??!! Deferment and inaction on the part of the people; they stopped the moment king said to stop the build, you care about your house and leave the house of our Lord ruined? Why are you back, then? You work for your home, and how about the house of our Lord?
- We must catch the opportunity when it comes, we can't wait and postpone it.

Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider your ways! Haggai 1: 5

- Means, ask your conscience and review yourself and test it: Are you on the right path, as God wants? or as what pleases you and according to the way of the world?
- Remember (Shehet): The balance of hearts. Everyone will weigh his own heart. Is it fill or will bedeficient? What does God see?
- What are you doing? Check yourself, what is the solution? Lord, what do you want me to do? The matter is simple, and whoever wants to work will work without excuses.
- Where are your hearts? Where are your priorities?

'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing? Haggai 2: 3

- Tone of frustration; I mean, if you tried, what would you do? Of course, the old temple was better; No, no, no, we will never return! Our Lord is same and so is the church.
- Do not hear the tone of frustration from the devil. this is the devil's game: disruption and then despair; work and may God be with you.

'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts.

'And in this place I will give peace,' says the Lord of hosts." Haggai 2: 9

- In the eyes of our Lord, the effort of Zerubbabel and his people is much greater than the circumstances and effort of Solomon. Fatigue and love are more important than gold.
- The repentant who returned to his innocence, his glory is greater than his first glory.
- Of course, the New Testament has greater glory than the Old Testament.



+ Verses summarizing the Book:

And now, carefully consider from this day forward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the Lord. Haggai 2:15

- You must repent for what has passed before and is much more important than work.

Consider now from this day forward. Haggai 2:18

- The day of repentance is a watershed day, before it there is no blessing, and from this day there are great blessings (the taste of life is different).
- Keep the hope because God will bless.
- But of course, our motives must be correct, I mean, blessings are not a reward for repentance, but rather a blessing from God that comes at the right time.

‘In that day,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,’ says the Lord, ‘and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,’ says the Lord of hosts.” Haggai 2:23

- On Judgment Day, God will save his children.
- The ring does not leave the hand of its owner... you be with me forever.
- You'll be my mine (my signet ring).
- Each one made his heart on his way, and it will be like this.

+ Interpretation of some verses:

Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the Lord. Haggai 1: 8

- A mountain = ascent to meet our Lord; A little further from the world, and a go to our Lord; The further away you are from the world, the smaller it will be in your eyes from above.
- Wood = a cross; carry your cross, do your message! God did not bring you to eat and drink.
- The house of our Lord = the church and my heart; Build yourself and your spiritual home; and participate in building the house of our Lord (service)



+ Interpretation of some verses:

“For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2: 6 - 7

- An earthquake for evil and sin.
- The Desire of All Nations = Jesus... A clear prophecy of the Incarnation as the greatest gift to humanity.
- Glory = the presence of our Lord... This is the house that our Lord entered and expelled the sellers of pigeons from it.

+ Meditate on this verse:

“If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew, wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?” ”Then the priests answered and said, “No.” And Haggai said, “If one who is unclean because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?” ” So the priests answered and said, “It shall be unclean.”

Haggai 2: 12 - 13

- In Jewish law, if a pure thing (such as the meat of sacrifice offered to our Lord) touches anything, this thing is not sanctified.
- And vice versa; If someone is impure (for example, burying a dead person) and touches something, this thing becomes defiled.
- Holiness is personal, but impurity is contagious.
- The closer you are to our Lord, the more you discover that you are not worthy; The repentance of the saints is greater than our repentance, even though they are much better than us.
- The closer we get, the more we feel unworthy.
- Another message: I will not be sanctified at the expense of anyone, I must be good.
- And vice versa, if he lives in the midst of impurity, it is difficult for him to be not affected.

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