



IT'S NOT TIME TO BUILD

...or so they thought



Goal

- Review Haggai
 - *God's commentary on how the people of Judah have been utilizing their time*
 - *What they ought to have been doing*
 - *Emptiness of endeavors done purely for self: depressed state*
 - *How to treat such depression*
 - *God's inheritance*
- NT
 - *1 Cor 3*
 - *REV 3*
 - *Matt 6, 25, Mark 16*

Background

- Babylonian captivity begun 606 BC
 - *2nd deportation 597*
 - *Final decimation 586*
- Released from captivity 536
 - *Given choice: stay or leave for home in Judah*
 - *90% decided to stay*
- Returning 10% left with task of rebuilding
 - *Procrastination phase lasted 16years*
 - *(building starts/stops) 535*
 - *Haggai prophecy 520-??*

536 BC

- The people had laid the foundation (Ezra 3:10)

- *Had a good start, but lost interest in the work*

“When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel.”

11 great responsive singing/praise/thanks for God

12 older generations loud weeping

13 hard to discern the joyful from the mournful shouts

Fear

Ezra 3:3

“Though fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD”

- attacking neighbors, keeping you from your work
- daily struggles (homes to est., family to feed, business to attend to)
- clothing to wear
- retirement to plan for and money to save

16 years later: 520 BC

- Procrastination

- *No further progress had been made*
- *Haggai 1:2*

- “Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built.”’

4 “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?”

5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!”

- Zeph 1:12

“and it will come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, “The LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.”

Dx: depression

- 1:6 “You have sown much, and bring in little: you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.”
 - *Consider your ways!*
 - Activities of this life that are void godly intent are empty
 - *Listlessness*
 - *Loss of direction*
 - *Lack meaning for this life*
 - *Life of sin, like taking amphetamines, is accompanied by brief euphoria, mania, and enjoyment followed by steep physical (and spiritual) consequences*

Rx: Get to work!

■ 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Consider your ways!

8 “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.

9 You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?” says the LORD of hosts. “Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.

13 LORD: “I am with you, says the LORD.”

14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of the remnant of the people, to work on the house

Lingering depression & God's counsel

- 2:3 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?”
 - 4 *yet now be strong... I am with you*
 - 5 ... so *My Spirit remains among you, do not fear!*

- 6 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. 8 The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the Lord of Hosts. 9 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.

Not what it once was

- The temple was but nothing compared to the original
 - *Not even close to the majesty it once had*
 - *But God planned for an even greater temple filled with far more valuable treasure*
 - *All of the silver and gold belongs to GOD*

 - *This all points to Christ's majesty, the temple of the church universal, and the treasure of the souls from all nations that array her as God's inheritance*
- Are you distressed by how our society once was compared to now? How things were 30 years ago... or perhaps even just 1 year ago?

“Consider your ways!” says the LORD of hosts.

- The foundation is laid
 - 1 Cor 3
 - “10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is in Jesus Christ.”
- Your work will be examined and tested
 - 13 *“Each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”*
- Rev 3:18
 - *“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with the eye salve, that you may see.”*

Will your work stand?

- 1 Cor 3

- *14 “If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are THE temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”*

- Remember: (Zeph 1:12)

- *I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency*

Get out, climb the hills, collect the wood and build for the LORD

- Matt 6:19
 - *Do not lay up treasure on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal*
- Matt 25
 - *Talents: God will examine the balance of the account entrusted to you*
 - *Son of Man comes: God tests your works and your love for the church and its expansion*
- Mark 16:16
 - *And He said to them, “Go out into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*
- Luke 24:47 “...repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.”