

Kiama Anglican Church
Christ Church Kiama with St. Paul's Minnamurra

HAGGAI:

‘The LORD

Almighty

Declares..’

HAGGAI: THE LORD ALMIGHTY DECLARES
Bible Studies : Term 3 : 2011 :

HAGGAI:

“This is what the LORD Almighty says”

Haggai 1:2,5,7; 2:6,11

The phrase above occurs five times in the book of. The phrase ‘declares the LORD’ (in the NIV Bible) is used eleven times. What Haggai wants us to understand is that the words he is presenting are the very words of the God who is Israel’s covenant keeping LORD.

For the people who hear Haggai’s message, in the first instance, the times are perilous. They are members of a small group of Israelites who have returned from the Babylon captivity to the Promised Land. As we know from Ezra-Nehemiah they are surrounded by opposition and being true to their calling is not easy. The main thrust of Haggai’s message is that they are to look carefully at their lifestyle priorities putting God and obedience to him first. As always those who trust the Lord will be blessed while those who put other things first will

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find God's displeasure.

These five short studies encourage us to look to our priorities and our choices in regard to how we serve Jesus in our materialistic 21st Century world.

Greg Holmes - JULY 2011

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THE STUDIES

Study Date	Topic	Passage	Page No
1 Sun 31 Jul	<u>“Give careful thought to your ways”</u>	Haggai 1:1-11	5
2 Sun 7 Aug	<u>“The people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God”</u>	Haggai 1:12- 15	7
3 Sun 14 Aug	<u>“But Now Be Strong ... Do Not Fear”</u>	Haggai 2:1-9	9
4 Sun 21 Aug	<u>“From This Day on I will Bless You”</u>	Haggai 2:10- 19	11
5 Sun 28 Aug	<u>“For I have Chosen You”</u>	Haggai 2:20- 23	13

References:

- Baldwin, J.G. ACTS (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (IVP, Leicester, 1972).
- Boda, M. The NIV Application Commentary : Haggai (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2004).
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- Alden, R.L. “HAGGAI” in Gaebelin, F.E., Douglas J.D. (Eds) THE EXPOSITOR’S BIBLE COMMENTARY (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1990)

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Study 1: HAGGAI 1:1-11

“Give careful thought to your ways”

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	Read all of Haggai		
2	Hebrews 9:11-15		
3	Matthew 5:1-12		
4	Malachi 1		
5	Haggai 1:1-11		

Study 1: HAGGAI 1:1-11

“Give careful thought to your ways”

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. When does all this happen?**
- 2. What are the people saying? What ‘good’ reasons might they have for saying this?**
- 3. What are they twice told to do? Why? What do they need to reconsider?**
- 4. What is the result of for them of not giving careful thought to what they are doing?**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. Read Deuteronomy 28:1-6 and 15-19. How are these relevant to the people of Haggai’s time?**
- 2. Read Matthew 5:1-12. Who does Jesus say will be blessed?**
- 3. The physical issue here is the rebuilding of the temple. Look at Exodus 25:8; 2 Samuel 7:11b-16; 1Kings 8:27-30 and John 1:14; 1 Peter 2:4-5.
What is the significance of the temple and what does it represent? Where is the ‘temple’ now?**
- 4. Look again at Haggai 1:8.
Why does God want the temple built?**

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Apply

1. **What, in essence, is this passage about?**
2. **What is our equivalent of re-building the temple?**

For Next Week: Read Haggai 1:12-15

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Study 2: HAGGAI 1:12-15

“The people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God”

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	Read all of Haggai		
2	Romans 11:1-6		
3	Matthew 28:16-20		
4	Malachi 2		
5	Haggai 1:12-15		

Study 2: HAGGAI 1:12-15

“The people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God”

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

1. **Notice again the dating (v15). What is the difference in time from v1? Why so long?**
2. **What are the people called in v14? What were they called in v2? Why is this emphasis different?**
3. **Who provides the motivation for this work (v14)? Why is that significant?**
4. **What is the comforting message in v13?**

Deeper and Wider

1. **In verse 12 who is being obeyed? How do we know what God wants us to do?**
2. **“I am with you”(v13). Look at Genesis 26:24; Exodus 33:14; Joshua 3:7; Isaiah 43:5; Jeremiah 46:28; Matthew 28:20. What does it mean that ‘God is with us?’ Does it mean freedom from all troubles?**
3. **What does it mean that ‘the people feared the Lord’? Given the message of v1-11 what sort of fear is this?**
4. **The idea of the ‘remnant’ is very important. Look at Ezra 9:13-15; Isaiah 10:21-22; 11:11-16; Micah 2:12; 7:18; Romans 11:5. Who now are the ‘remnant’ of God’s people?**

Apply

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1. What should we do with the word of the LORD? Read James 1:22-25.

2. Are we open to God 'stirring up' our spirit to love and serve Him? ?

For Next Week: Read Haggai 2:1-9

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Study 3: HAGGAI

“But Now Be Strong ... Do Not Fear”

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	Read all of Haggai		
2	Hebrews 12:22-29		
3	Matthew 24:1-14		
4	Malachi 3		
5	Haggai 2:1-9		

Study 3: HAGGAI 2:1-9

“But Now Be Strong ... Do Not Fear”

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. How much time has passed?
What now is the issue here?**
- 2. How are the people’s concerns addressed?**
- 3. In v 9 what is God’s promise?
What confidence can God’s people have about this?**
- 4. In v6-7 what does God say He is going to do?**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. What are God’s concerns in this message?**
- 2. Read Hebrews 12:25-29.
What use does this make of our Haggai passage?**
- 3. What part does God’s action in the past play in this passage?**
- 4. What is meant by ‘peace’ (shalom)?
How is it brought into being ?**

Apply

- 1. When you are challenged and discouraged where do you look?
Where should you look?**
- 2. “Be strong ... Do not fear”.**

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Why are these commands important?

For Next Week: Read Haggai 2:10-19

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Study 4: HAGGAI 2:10-19

“From This Day on I will Bless You”

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	Read all of Haggai		
2	Hebrews 13:11-17		
3	Matthew 23:23-28		
4	Malachi 4		
5	Haggai 2:10-19		

Study 4: HAGGAI 2:10-19

“From This Day on I will Bless You”

Explore the Basics

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. Again what is the date here?**
- 2. What is the point of the parable in v10-14?**
- 3. What earlier part of the prophecy is referred to in v15-19?**
- 4. Why repeat the date in v18?**
What point is this part (v15-19) of the message making?
What is the contrast?

Deeper and Wider

- 1. Read Matthew 23: 23-28. What does Jesus have to say about true cleanliness?**
- 2. What does v14 have to say about God’s attitude to sacrifices? See also 1 Sam. 15:22–23; Ps. 40:6–8; 51:16–17; Prov. 21:3; Isa. 1:10–20; Jer. 7:21–26; Hos. 6:6; Amos 5:21–27; Mic. 6:6–8.**
- 3. How does the New Testament see sacrifice? See Hebrews 9:23-28; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:17; 2 Timothy 4:6; 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 6:9; Philippians 4:18; Hebrews 13:15; Revelation. 5:8; 8:3; Heb. 13:16; Phil. 2:17.**
- 4. Boda refers to v15-19 as ‘From Past**

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Curse to Future Blessing through Present Obedience'. Discuss? How does this relate to the Gospel?

Apply

1. **What 'blessing' (v19) do we think we deserve?**

Or do we deserve something else?

2. **What is the blessing we have in Jesus?**

For Next Week: Read Haggai 2:20-23

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Study 5: HAGGAI 2:20-23

“For I have Chosen You”

Day	Reading	My Thoughts	Prayer Points
1	Read all of Haggai		
2	Revelation 5:6-14		
3	Matthew 12:15-21		
4	2 Samuel 7:1-17		
5	Haggai 2:20-23		

Study 5: HAGGAI 2:20-23

“For I have Chosen You”

Explore the Basics

It would be good at this stage to read Haggai right through together.

Read the passage carefully together.

- 1. What has been the main thrust of Haggai thus far?**
- 2. What is the thrust of this passage?
Who will benefit?**
- 3. What does God tell Zerubbabel he is going to do to the nations?**
- 4. What will happen ‘on that day’?**

Deeper and Wider

- 1. Who is Zerubbabel?
Who or what does he represent?**
- 2. What does God say he is going to do for Zerubbabel? Why does this matter?**
- 3. Who is the one who is in control right through the ‘story’ of Haggai?**
- 4. Discuss the thing that has impacted you most about the prophecy of Haggai?**

Apply

- 1. Jesus is the ultimate ‘Zerubbabel’. How should we respond to him?**
- 2. Are you ready for ‘that day’?**

In the Next Week: Read Haggai right

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through again.

HAGGAI: THE LORD ALMIGHTY DECLARES
NOTES.

