

Haggai

3

“Build God’s house”

July 11, 2021	Background and introduction of key characters (1:1)
July 18, 2021	First message: Put first things first (1:2-15)
July 25, 2021	Second message: Find strength in God’s promises (2:1-9)
August 8, 2021	Third and fourth messages: Trust in God for blessings (2:10-23)

Opening prayer: Lord God, you have promised great things for your believers. Forgive us when we become impatient for those great things to happen. Show us today that whenever your Word is preached a glorious peace is proclaimed, even when we don’t see glorious results. In your Son’s name we pray. Amen.

Haggai 1:12-15 *A miraculous response*

1. What was the miraculous response to Haggai’s message?
2. Why did the people and their leaders respond to Haggai’s message the way they did?
3. What encouragement and comfort does this section of God’s Word give to our congregation as we are in the midst of a building project?
4. Explain: The building project God had in mind for the people of Haggai’s day was about more than bricks and mortar.

Summary: God can’t stand being second in our lives. He wants us to put him before our homes, our cars, our schooling, our careers, and even first before our family. God also wants us to put him first today, and not “later.” God empowers us to do this by telling us that he, the Lord of hosts, is with us.

Haggai 2:1-3 A Faded Glory?

1. Compare Haggai 1:15 with Haggai 2:1. How long had it been since Haggai's previous message to the Israelites?



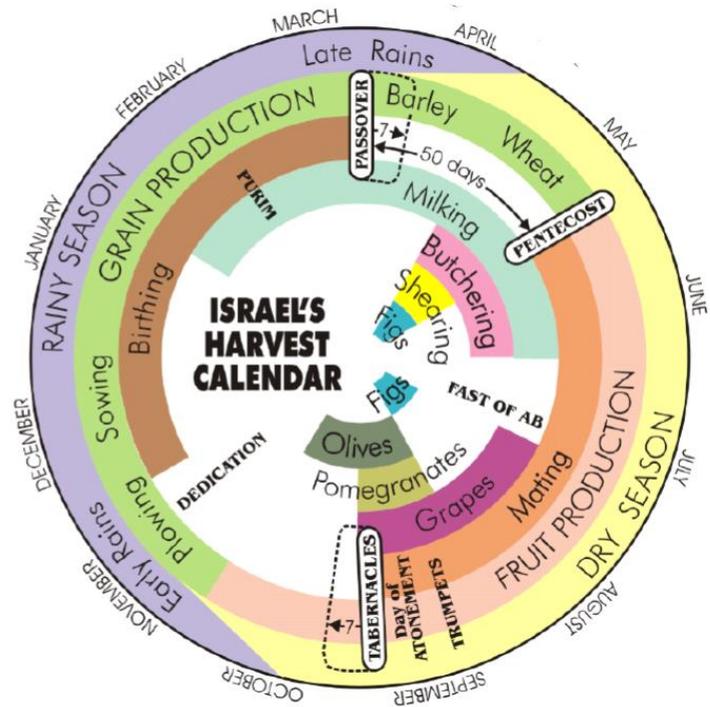
Trumpets
New Moon



Day of Atonement



BOOTHS
Tabernacles



2. What did God want the returnees to notice about the structure *they* were building compared to the temple Solomon had built? (cf. Haggai 2:3; Ezra 3:12)
3. Why would the Israelites of Haggai's day probably not be able to duplicate the outward glory of Solomon's temple? (cf. 1 Chronicles 22:5)
4. How can remembering the "good-ol'-days" be a *bad* thing when it comes to doing God's work?

Haggai 2:4, 5 *A Glorious Promise*

5. How did God deal with the fears and doubts of his people who thought that the “glory” days were over?

6. How can remembering the “good-ol’-days” be a *good* thing when it comes to doing God’s work?

7. Name some moments when these words of God: “*Be strong...and work. For I, the Lord of hosts, am with you*” were or might be a good comfort and encouragement to...
 - you -

 - our congregation -

 - our synod -

Haggai 2:6-9 *A Greater Glory!*

8. In Haggai 2:6 the Lord promised to shake things up among the nations. How had he done this in connection with Israel’s return to Jerusalem? (cf. Isaiah 45:11-13) How will God shake the nations in the future? (cf. Hebrews 12:26-28)

9. In Haggai 2:7-9 God said he would shake the nations and cause the “desired of all nations” to come, filling the new temple with *greater* glory than Solomon’s temple. Some Bible commentators view the “desired of all nations” as a direct reference to the coming Messiah, Jesus. Other commentators see the “desired of all nations” as believers who will flock to the temple (the Church), bringing with them the wealth of the nations for God’s glory. Work in pairs and explain from the context of Haggai which interpretation you favor. Do the following passages sway your understanding? (Isaiah 60:1-5, 11; Malachi 3:1; Luke 2:21-32; John 12:20-33)

10. According to Haggai 2:9, what really makes a church “beautiful” to the Lord?

11. Respond: Bjorn says that since it’s God’s Word of forgiveness that makes a church “beautiful,” we should just spend our offerings on getting the Word out and not on erecting a costly building in which to worship or study his Word.

Summary: Rather than dwelling on the past, the Lord wants us to focus on the opportunities to build up his house today. Though there may be significant challenges, we can find strength to do the work that needs to be done in his glorious promises. God Almighty promises to be with us and cause his Spirit to work in and through us. He promises to bring true glory and peace to his Church through the good news of Christ. This gospel will draw people from all nations and will build up his house. May the Spirit of God inspire us all to send out that powerful gospel to the world with all that we are and have!

For the next lesson (August 8)

Third and fourth messages: Trust in God for blessings (2:10-23)