

Majoring in the Minors

Week 10 Outline

8/24/25

Haggai – Being New Without Being a Newb

1. Context

- a. Israel is split into 2 kingdoms; Assyria conquers the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- b. Egypt takes a king of Judah captive; then Babylon takes another; then Babylon takes another.
- c. Babylon finally wipes out Judah, taking many men and women back as captives.
- d. Jeremiah says “Pray for the peace of Babylon.”
- e. Persia overthrows Babylon, and their king allows Israelites return to rebuild the Temple and the wall around Jerusalem.

2. Lesson #1: When things are new, it can be hard to stay focused on God (Haggai 1: 1-13)

- a. Zerubbabel is a descendant of David and an ancestor of Jesus.
- b. The Temple is in ruins; the people had houses with paneled walls.
- c. God’s dealing with His people may feel transactional. But:
 - i. What does God need from us?
 - ii. What do we need more than Him?
 - iii. Out of love, when we forget God, He will get our attention.
- d. Applications
 - i. “Give careful thought to your ways.”
 - ii. Keep God first!

3. Lesson #2: Be mindful of your expectations (Haggai 2:1-7)

- a. The new Temple was nothing like the old.
- b. What we expect is often not aligned with what God provides.
- c. God is in control. He can, and has, and will, shake up the world order.
- d. God will send “what is desired by all nations”: the Messiah.
- e. The people wanted a symbol of their old kingdom; God was sending the beginning of a better kingdom.
- f. Applications
 - i. We often think God is leading us to X, Y & Z, but He’s really leading us to 6,000,000.
 - ii. Jesus says His kingdom is like a mustard seed, which grows into something unrecognizable from its start.

4. Lesson #3: Putting Lessons 1 and 2 Together (Haggai 2:20 - 23)

- a. God is in control. He can, and has, and will, shake up the world order.
- b. Zerubbabel will become God’s signet ring:
 - i. The line of David, through Zerubbabel, will once again represent God
 - ii. This foretells the coming of Jesus.
- c. Jesus:

- i. Brought something so new the people didn't see God in it
 - ii. Did not meet the expectations of the people
- d. Haggai ends by pointing us to our continual starting point:
 - i. By remembering that we have nothing to offer God and we have nothing without God, we can keep God first.
 - ii. By saying "I'll follow You", we give up control and our expectations.