

“What’s Going On Here?”

Haggai ch.2

October 4th, 2015

INTRO: **VIDEO** *“Welcome to Our Church”*

PREVIEW:

- I. **MERCIFUL...** ***Truth-in-Love***
- II. **MISSIONAL...** ***Truth-in-Love***
- III. **MOTIVATIONAL...** ***Truth-in-Love***
- IV. **MINISTERIAL...** ***Truth-in-Love***
- V. **MILLENIAL...** ***Truth-in-Love***

CONTEXT:

Creation... to Fall...

Abraham... to Moses...

Desert... to Promised Land...

Exile... to Return...

Ezra... to Haggai...

1:5... everyone whose heart God had moved--prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD

3:3... Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD

Ezra 4:1-6 (beware false friends)

¹ ...the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel, ² they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, "Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him..." ³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, "You have no part with us in building a temple to our God..." ⁴ Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building. ⁶ At the beginning of the reign of Xerxes, they lodged an accusation against the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

5:1-2... Now Haggai the prophet... prophesied to the Jews... ² Then Zerubbabel... and Jeshua... set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem...

REVIEW: Haggai ch.1: (read the 15 verses of ch.1)

(vv.1-11 & 12-15) = *Merciful & Missional... Truth-in-Love*

I. *MERCIFUL... Truth-in-Love* (1:1-11)

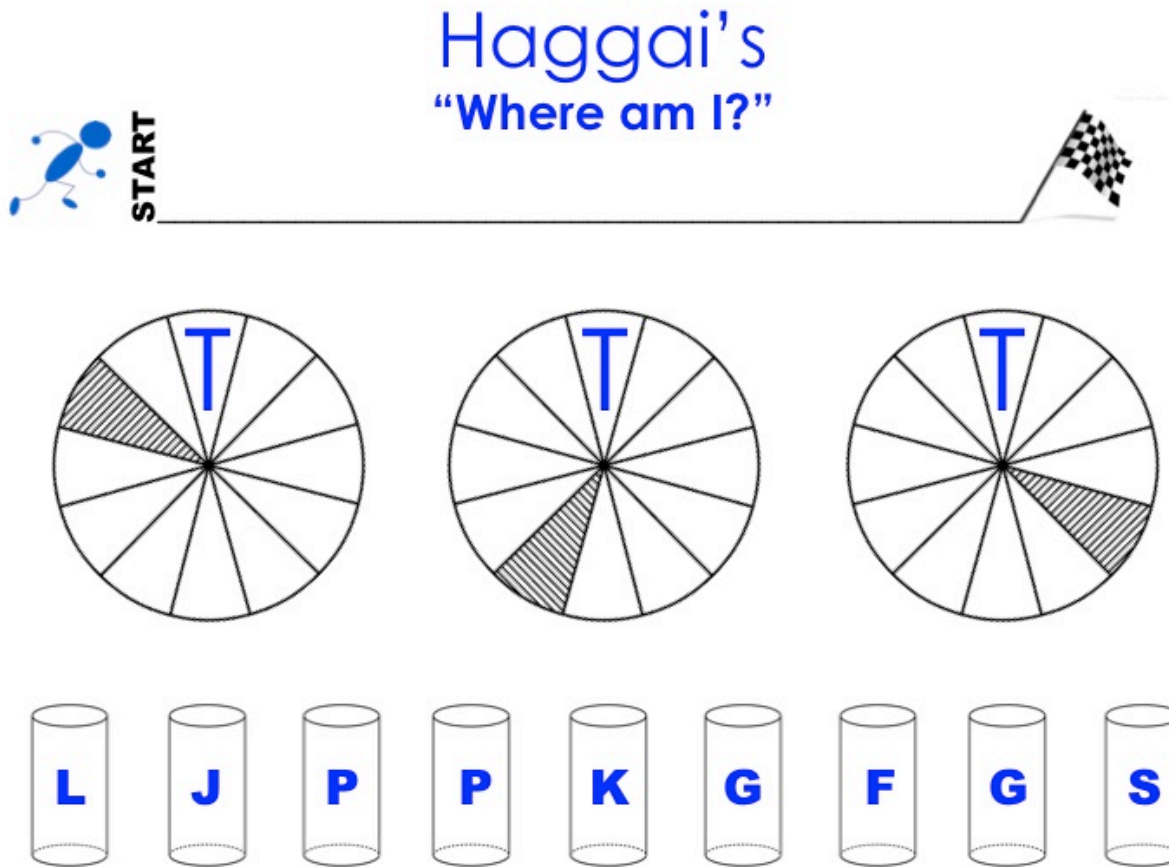
1. God's *sovereignty...* is on display
2. God's *speaking...* specifically
3. God's *sending...* His ambassador(s)
4. God's *serious...* about sin
5. God's "*spankings*"... get explained
6. God's *Spirit...* will be "with you!"
7. God's *stirring-up...* of His people

II. *MISSIONAL... Truth-in-Love* (1:12-15)

1. God's people went faithfully but *fizzled*
2. God's people were *confronted* for their:
 - a. *Compromise*
 - b. *Complacency*
3. God's people *listened* (vs. just hearing)
4. God's people *responded*:
 - a. See faithfully obedient *repenting*
 - b. See faithfully obedient *rebuilding*
5. God's people had their *spirits stirred* up
 - a. God's Spirit stirs up our spirits
 - b. Spirit-stirring is Amazing Grace!

Summary of Haggai Ch.1:

- A. Realize where you are in your eternal journey.*
- B. Faithfully prioritize your Time, Talent, & Treasure*
- C. "God with you" brings overflowing fruit of the Spirit*



T/S: As we transition into Haggai ch.2... watch for the:

<i>Motivational...</i>	<i>Truth-in-Love</i>	(2: 1 - 9)
<i>Ministerial...</i>	<i>Truth-in-Love</i>	(2:10-19)
<i>Millennial...</i>	<i>Truth-in-Love</i>	(2:20-23)

III. **MOTIVATIONAL... Truth-in-Love** (Haggai 2:1-9)

¹ *On the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet saying,*
² *"Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying,*

a. God said: **"speak NOW"** (to everyone) **v.1-2**

³ *'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?*

b. God confronts people's skepticism/perspective:
1. **"Is it nothing in your eyes?"** **v.3**
2. See **Ezra 3** cf. (some crying & ashamed)

12... But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.

13... No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

VIDEO: “Unexpected Shoes”

⁴ 'But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' declares the LORD of hosts.

- c. **“yet”** = notwithstanding your opinion/concern...
 - 1. The LORD says: **“Be strong!”** v.4
 - 2. The LORD says: **“Be strong!”** v.4
 - 3. The LORD says: **“Be strong!”** v.4
 - 4. NOTE: repetition means emphasis!
- d. Don't miss how many times the Lord **“declares!”**
- e. **Work!** (see the LORD's imperative here) v.4
- f. **“For I am with you”** v.4
 - 1. There is no greater motivational truth
 - 2. There is no greater motivational love
 - 3. There is no greater motivational _____
 - 4. NOTE: here again, God “declares!”

⁵ 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'

- g. **“according to the covenant...” v.5**
 - 1. The LORD is a Promise-Keeper!
 - 2. Have confidence in our Creator & Christ

- h. **“My Spirit remains in your midst” v.5**
 - 1. See the 23rd Psalm...
 - 2. If God is for/with us, who can be.....
 - 3. Again, can there be ANY greater gift?
 - 4. See 2 Peter 1:3 & Philippians 4:13

- i. **“Fear not!” v.5** (cf. **Ezra 4:23-24**)

²³ ... they went immediately to the Jews in Jerusalem and **compelled them by force to stop.** ²⁴ **Thus the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.**

- 1. Remember why they stopped working...
- 2. Look ahead to Nehemiah's ministry...
- 3. **What are YOU afraid of...**
- 4. **What fear inhibits your faithfulness?**
- 5. Walk by faith... not by fear!

⁶ *"For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.*

⁷ *'I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.*

⁸ *'The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts.*

j. ***"For thus says the LORD of hosts"*** (again!) **v.6-8**

1. *"I will shake the nations..."*

2. *"I will bring... treasures of the nations"*

3. ***"I will fill this house with glory"***

a. ***Illustration: "the QUILT"***

b. See our international community...

⁹ *'The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the LORD of hosts."*

k. ***"God's glory will be greater in this house..."*** **v.9**

1. **What do you want?**

a. ***A “big house”***

- i. Impressive structures?
- ii. Polished programs?
- iii. Ministry malls?

b. ***A blessed home?***

- i. ***Indwelling of the Spirit of God***
- ii. ***God’s presence & power***
- iii. ***God’s purposes & people***
- iv. ***God’s promised peace...***

2. **Come and see.**

1. ***“AND in this new house I will give peace...” v.9***

- i. See again the Fruit of the Spirit
- ii. Got peace? (eternal peace)
- iii. God ***declares*** you’ll get peace!

IV. *MINISTERIAL...Truth-in-Love* (Haggai 2:10-19)

¹⁰ *On the twenty-fourth of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Haggai the prophet, saying,*

- The LORD is making a “point of principle”
- This is the 3rd day/message from the Lord...
- NOTE: this is the “word of the LORD”

¹¹ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Ask now the priests for a ruling:

¹² 'If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?'" And the priests answered, "No."

- Holiness is NOT humanly transferable...
 - Restoration & Redemption do not “rub off” on others...
- Holiness is NOT humanly transferable.
 - Sin & defilement ARE transferable
 - Birds of a feather flock together...
 - See warnings re: false teachers...
 - Sin breeds sin...
 - Darkness grows without light!

¹³ *Then Haggai said, "If one who is unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will the latter become unclean?" And the priests answered, "It will become unclean."*

- See the intentional contrast...
- Whereas holiness is not transferable, sin & defilement can and do spread like the plague (literally... sin spreads like wild fire!)
- “Birds of a feather flock together...”
- Sin fertilizers sin...
- Hence the biblical warnings... false teachers.

¹⁴ *Then Haggai said, " 'So is this people. And so is this nation before Me,' declares the LORD, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.*

- Haggai/God applies the spreading of costly sin to the people listening, which is politically incorrect
- The principle is clear: God rejects the offerings of unrepentant sinners...
- Blessings are connected to obedience (not exclusively but predominantly)

- **The LORD is saying:**
1. **These people have been *DEFILED***
 2. **God's people are to be *DISCIPLINED***

T/S: See the transition here, back to the same posture & perspective He shared (through Haggai) in chapter one...

¹⁵ 'But now, do consider from this day onward: before one stone was placed on another in the temple of the LORD,

¹⁶ from that time when one came to a grain heap of twenty measures, there would be only ten; and when one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there would be only twenty.

¹⁷ 'I smote you and every work of your hands with blasting wind, mildew and hail; yet you did not come back to Me,' declares the LORD.

- The Lord encourages the sinning people to look back and see their sin... and the consequences of said sin.

- Like in chapter one... see that the Lord plainly says: “Your problem was/is with ME!”
- See that Almighty God actively thwarted the hopes & helps of “His” people...
- Frustration comes to the faithless...
- See that God “smote every work of your hands”
- See the stubbornness of sin & sinners...
- Can you relate?
- Darkness hates the light (until the Lord shines His Light in us)
- The LORD connects frustration & faithlessness
- The LORD affirms: ***“I struck you!”***
 - 1 The devil didn’t do it...
 - 2 It’s not “bad luck” or “karma”
 3. God disciplines those He loves.
 4. For many... this is a challenging truth
 5. For many... a personally painful truth

¹⁸ 'Do consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month; from the day when the temple of the LORD was founded, consider:

¹⁹ 'Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree, it has not borne fruit. Yet from this day on I will bless you.'"

- God is making a point of marking this moment!
- Faithlessness is futile... & leads to frustration.
- Faithfulness fuels more faithfulness which fuels more faithfulness... and so on and so on and so on...
- Faithfulness is the fertilizer of change & blessing
- Notice, not only the reality of the momentous event, but the circumstances and hearts enveloping this time:
 - God spoke
 - God instructed
 - People obeyed
 - People worked
 - God's people starting putting God first!

- Eternity changing truth... God is with us!
- Moreover, God is blessing us!
- NOTE: "God with us" is the best of all blessings.

***** "from this day on I will bless you." *****

- The LORD confronts all patterns of sin
 - Please see the godly guidelines...
 - Purity matters...
 - Overt, selfish & stubborn sin do damage
 - God will not bless unfaithfulness...
 - BUT... **1 John 1:9**

- Ministerial truth-in-love exemplifies:
 - God's Presence
 - God's Power
 - God's People
 - God's Proclamation
 - God's Purposes

V. *MILLENNIAL... Truth-in-Love* (Haggai 2:20-23)

²⁰ *Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying,*

²¹ *"Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, 'I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.*

²² *'I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.'*

- a. The LORD speaks to Zerubbabel... **v.20**

- b. The LORD is about to: **v.21-22**
1. Shake the nations...
 2. Shake the earth...
 3. Destroy the strength of kingdoms...
 4. Overthrow chariots & riders...
 5. Take down horses & riders...
 6. Oversee His enemies demise...
 - a. "everyone by the sword..."
 - b. "...by the sword of their brother"

²³ *'On that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,'"* declares the LORD of hosts.

- c. ***"on that day, declares the LORD"*** **v.23**
1. NOTE the short & long prophetic voice
 2. God often speaks to the now & later...
- d. ***"I will take you, O Zerubbabel, My servant"*** **v.23**
1. KEY: see here a foreshadowing of Christ
 2. Similar foreshadowing in Scripture:
 - i. Genesis 3:15
 - ii. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac
 - iii. David's defeat of Goliath
 3. Zerubbabel will foreshadow:
 - i. "It is finished"
 - ii. "Christ's millennial reign"

- e. *“for I have chosen you”* v.23
1. KEY: here *foreshadowing Christians*
 2. Again... see God’s amazing grace!
 3. To be “chosen” is to be “saved by grace”
 4. The LORD is declaring “our” victory!

VIDEO: “Victory In Jesus”

T/S: Amen & Amen!!!

Notice the last (and often repeated words of Haggai)

“...declares the LORD of hosts!” v.23

And to that, I say once again (and often) Amen & Amen!

CLOSE:

So...

**let’s close by taking a
summarizing look at the**

“So what?”

of a sermon entitled... So...

“What’s Going On Here?”

I. Theologically:

- a. Power (sovereignty) on display
- b. Providence proven
- c. Personal relationships with God are key
- d. Priorities matter to Messiah & His Missionaries
- e. Promises of God are GUARANTEED!

II. Biblically:

- a. God disciplines
- b. God delivers

III. Principally

- a. First things first – faithfully!
- b. Big houses are not necessarily blessed homes.
- c. Obedience brings joy, disobedience brings pain.
- d. BE the light, the city on the hill...
- e. ALL of God's blessings are gifts of His grace!

IV. Practically

- a. The LORD's priority is Church-planting!
- b. The LORD has commanded us to BE His witnesses
- c. See our BRIDGE "Truth-in-Love" distinctives.

V. Personally

- a. John 3:36...
- b. John 8:32 & 8:36
- c. Romans 8:16-17; 8:37
- d. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Amen!

Let's pray...



One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally).” – Acts 1:8

One Question: *WHAT DO YOU WANT?*

One Offer: *COME AND SEE.*

One Promise: *TRUTH IN LOVE!*

Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...

- 1.** Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
- 2.** Trusting the Bible & obeying God’s Word...
- 3.** Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
- 4.** Praying for guidance & following by faith...
- 5.** Dying to self & carrying our cross...
- 6.** BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(*truly loving* one another)
- 7.** Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
- 8.** Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
- 9.** Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
- 10.** Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
- 11.** Making disciples-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
- 12.** Loving our King & serving His kingdom!