

Faith
Looking
Forwards

Careful Thought and Heavy Lifting

Introducing Haggai...



Faith Looking Forwards

Haggai 1: 1-11

In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest:

² This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘These people say, “The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’s house.”’

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³ Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ 'Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?'

⁵ Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways.'

Faith Looking Forwards



⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.'

⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸ Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured,' says the LORD.

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⁹ ‘You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?’ declares the LORD Almighty. ‘Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.

¹⁰ Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops.

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¹¹ I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labour of your hands.'

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What are you carrying?

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Introducing Haggai...

Written in 520 B.C. as prose, telling a story rather than a poetic text

Author: Haggai, a contemporary of Zechariah, believed to be a priest

Return from exile took place in 538 B.C., and emperor Cyrus decreed for the temple to be rebuilt

Foundations laid within 1 year followed by great celebrations

Severe political opposition from neighbouring countries

Stopped building for 16 years

New ruler Darius arrived in 522 B.C. reinstating Cyrus' decree to build the temple

Two years in the temple still lay in ruins

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Verse 1

A word from the prophet Haggai for the governor and the priest...



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Verses 2-4

Give careful thought to your ways...



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Verses 5-6

Give careful thought to your ways...



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Verses 7-9

Give careful thought to your ways...



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Verses 10-11

Give careful thought to your ways...



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⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

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¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



Faith Looking Forwards



REFLECTION

Faith
Looking
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REFLECTION

ALIGNMENT

Faith Looking Forwards



REFLECTION

ALIGNMENT

ACTION