

Misplaced Priorities

Haggai 1

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Haggai Chapter One Summed Up: God confronts his people's idolatries and misplaced priorities, calling them to renewed faith, repentance, and the fruit of that repentance—exhibited in their faithfulness in rebuilding the temple.¹

I. The Priorities of God's People Were Sorely Misplaced (vs. 1-11).

A. The Temple Represented:

1. A visible sign of God's presence – God dwelling among His people.
2. A visible sign of His people's relative devotion to Him.
3. A visual sermon of sorts – proclaiming God's holiness (holy of holies); man's sinfulness (man unable to enter the holy of holies); and the need for man's sin to be atoned (paid) for (atonement tied to the animal sacrifices).
4. Most importantly, the temple in Jerusalem is about pointing us to Christ – the true temple who was to come (John 2:19-22).

B. The Charge of God Against Israel (vs. 2):

1. They have not rebuilt the temple.
2. Their excuse for not rebuilding the temple – "It's not yet time."

C. The Reason the People of God Had Not Rebuilt the Temple (vs. 4):

1. They had drifted from God
2. They had set their priorities on themselves and their agendas (vs. 4).

D. God Calls His People to Consider Their Ways (vs. 5-7; 9-11).

¹ "Knowing the Bible: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi," Stephen M. Coleman, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-the-bible-haggai-zechariah-and-malachi/#week-1-overview>

Application:

II. God Graciously Brings to Repentance and Fixes the Heart of His People on His Kingdom (vs. 12-15).

A. God Brings Israel to Repentance (vs. 12).

1. They obey the word of the Lord
2. They fear the Lord.

B. Israel's Repentance Leads to Obedience (vs. 13-15).

1. They began work on the temple.
2. God promised to be with them