

## Haggai 2:10-23 – I Will Bless You!

The last recorded words of Haggai were on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the ninth month of 520 B. C. It had been three months since the temple rebuilding effort had restarted. One month earlier, God raised up the prophet Zechariah to also encourage the temple rebuilding effort. The 24<sup>th</sup> day of the ninth month corresponds to our month of December. God spoke through Haggai one last time to exhort the people, to encourage the people and to give the people hope.

### **Read Haggai 2:10-19.**

God told Haggai to ask the priests two questions and to have them answer according to the law. Haggai asked the priests if holy meat carried in a garment touches other food, does that food become holy. How did the priests answer? Did they answer correctly? Haggai then asked them if someone touched a dead body and became unclean and then that person touched food, did the food become unclean. How did the priests answer? Did they answer correctly? (2:10-13)

What are the principles found in verses 12 and 13? How did these principles apply to the people of Haggai's time? What were the people offering that was unclean? Why was their offering unclean? (2:14)

Within verses 15-18, God told the people three times to "consider". In verse 15 God asked them to consider how they fared while the temple laid in ruins. How did the people fare? Why did God make their life difficult? Hint: look at the end of verse 17. (2:15-17)

God told the people that this particular day would be a turning point for their welfare. What kind of yield did the people get from their agricultural efforts before that day? What did God promise them from that day on? (2:18-19)

If we are having financial problems, should we assume that God is punishing us for some sin? Can you think of examples in the Bible where people had financial problems that were not caused by disobedience?

I don't know what the people were thinking. Did they think that because they had returned to the promise land that God would now bless them no matter what? Did they think that they could put their interests before God's interests and still have God bless them? They were still under the Law of Moses. Obedience was rewarded. Disobedience was punished.

**Read Haggai 2:20-23.**

Haggai's last message was to Zerubbabel. Why is Zerubbabel an important person? See Matthew 1:12-13 and Luke 3:27.

In verse 21, what was God about to shake? What other passage in Haggai is similar to this passage?

In verse 22, what was God about to do? Who is being talked about? When will it happen?

In what way had God chosen Zerubbabel? What did God say he would do with Zerubbabel? Is this a Messianic prophecy? (2:23)

Consider the two leaders of the people who first returned to the Promised Land. Zerubbabel was the political leader. Zerubbabel was descended from King David and Jesus Christ was descended from Zerubbabel. Jesus is the one who sits on the throne of David. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. The other leader was Joshua the high priest. "Joshua" (or Jeshua/Yeshua) is the Hebrew name that we know in the New Testament as "Jesus". So, the political leader is in the lineage of Jesus and the high priest is named "Jesus". Call me crazy, but that seems prophetic. Jesus said that the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms wrote of him (Luke 24:44). Jesus, the King of Kings and our Great High Priest, will lead us into the heavenly promised land.

What did you learn or relearn from the book of Haggai? How is the book of Haggai an encouragement to you? How is the book of Haggai a warning to us?

At the end of the book of Haggai, the temple rebuilding project was still in the initial phase. How did it turn out? To find out we must turn to Ezra 6:14-15. The temple was completed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Darius. That means that the people finished the temple in just under 4 and a half years. It was completed in time for them to celebrate the Passover a few weeks later.