

**Oxford Baptist Church – Nov 5, 2023 – Pastor Robin W. Pifer
Haggai – “Time to Build” – Haggai 1:1-15**

Introduction to Haggai

- The purpose of Haggai’s messages
- 520 BC
- 4 Months: Aug - December 18)
- Spiritually Motivate God’s People to rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem.
- “The Word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai (v.1) ... this is what the Lord Almighty says, (v2,5)”.... God says...

1) The Time Has Come To Build The Lord’s House | v.1-2

- Why did they have a sixteen-year delay?
- “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord’s house.’”
- Mixed up priorities.
- Ezra 4:1-5 – The Delay of Fear and Discouragement.
- Go Beyond the outward or surface issues in a person’s life.
- How often have you delayed obedience with the excuse that it is not the Lord’s timing in your life?*
- Are you committed to Building the House of God?*
- Are you committed to Building up the people of God?*
Barnabas

2) The Time Is Over For Building Your Houses | v.3-4

- 2 Chronicles 3:4-6
- Focused on their homes rather than Worship in the House of God.
- What have you been choosing over the Worship of the Lord to satisfy your life?*

3) The Time Has Come To Give Careful Thought To Your Ways | v.5-6

- Here is what happened
 - You planted much but harvested little.

- You eat but never have enough.
- You drink but never have your fill.
- You put on clothes, but they are not warm.
- You earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes.
- “Whatever you find easy to spend money on will be an idol in your life.”
- Have you ever experienced this kind of discipline/judgment in your life? Are you now?*
- Negligence/Disobedience Brings Loss.
- Diligence/Obedience Brings Great Gain.

4) The Time Has Come To Give More Careful Thought To Your Ways | v.7-11

- Go get what is needed and build the house of God so that the Lord may take pleasure in it and be honoured - v.8
- You expected much, but little was returned.
- What was brought home was blown away.
- Drought happened on all the work of their hands.
- God hinders our harvest when he is not honoured.
- Is drought happening in our land and our lives?*

5) The Time Has Come To Obey His Voice & Fear Him | v.12-15

- The Leaders and the people obeyed the voice of the Lord.
- The People feared the Lord. (Awe, Dread, Wow) – Repented
- Psalm 122:1-2, 9
- The Lord’s Message – “I am with you.” Matt 28
- They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty.
- When God’s family households honour and come together as a local church, there is nothing more powerful. God’s Place – God’s People – To God be the Glory.

Questions for Personal and Group Study

- 1) Take Time to Read Haggai 1:1-15
- 2) Why did the people of God delay the building of the temple?
- 3) How does focusing on our homes distract us from the Worship of God?
- 4) What other excuses do we use to avoid the Lord being #1 in our lives?
- 5) How was God bringing discipline to his people? V. 3-11
- 6) Have you taken time to give careful thought to your ways recently? What has the Lord been saying to you? Changes?
- 7) Are you experiencing the results of negligence or the Lord's blessings from obedience?
- 8) Discuss and reflect on what is "The Fear of the Lord."
- 9) Discuss the Lord's encouraging words – "I am with you."
- 10) After the message, how did the People of God respond?
- 11) How does this message impact our ministry and Building project?