

Insights From Haggai

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Insights From Haggai

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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Haggai

- The reason God sent this message was because the Jews were claiming it wasn't time to build the second temple (Haggai 1:2). The Jews of that era didn't have a heart to worship the Lord, which can be seen from the fact they had no desire to rebuild the temple.
- The Lord was angry with the Jews because they had rebuilt their own homes but hadn't rebuilt the house of God (Haggai 1:4). The Jews allowed God's temple to lie in ruins for years while they labored for themselves.
- God is the God of armies (Haggai 1:2).
- God afflicted the Jews mightily because they left His temple in ruins and did nothing to rebuild it so they could resume worshiping Him (Haggai 1:6).
- God has the ability to give us a bountiful harvest or a meager one (Haggai 1:6).
- God has the ability to give us wealth, or to send disasters upon us that eat up our earnings and leave us with nothing (Haggai 1:6).
- There are times when God curses nations with poverty and affliction because of their sins (Haggai 1:6).
- The reason the Jews were poor wasn't because they hadn't worked hard enough. It was because they served themselves instead of serving the Lord (Haggai 1:9).
- There are times when God punishes a nation by withholding rain (Haggai 1:10).
- There are times when God punishes a nation by withholding crops and sending famine (Haggai 1:10).

- The reason the Jews obeyed the Lord and started building the second temple was because God stirred up their spirit (Haggai 1:14).
- At this time only a remnant of the Jews were in the land (Haggai 1:14).
- The second temple wasn't as magnificent as the first temple (Haggai 2:3).
- There were some Jews in the land who were so old they had memories of the first temple (Haggai 2:3).
- God told the people that even though the second temple was less glorious than the first temple, He was still with them in this effort and He wanted them to finish it (Haggai 2:4).
- God didn't want the Jews to become disheartened and quit over the fact that what they were building wasn't as good as what used to exist (Haggai 2:4).
- God said He would fill the second temple with glory by sending the Messiah into it (Haggai 2:7). For that reason the second temple would ultimately be more glorious than the first.
- Unholy things aren't improved by coming into contact with something holy. Instead they defile the holy thing (Haggai 2:12). Holy things must therefore be kept away from unholy things.
- It's impossible for someone who's unclean in the sight of God to do something holy or give a holy gift, because that person's unclean nature infects everything they do and touch (Haggai 2:14).
- God has the power to send abundance or withhold it. He

can multiply a harvest or diminish it (Haggai 2:16).

- There are times when God sends hail upon a nation to punish it for its sins (Haggai 2:17).
- There are times when God poisons crops to punish a nation for its sins (Haggai 2:17).
- God told Zerubbabel that He had chosen him and would bless him in the day when He overthrew the kingdoms of this world (Haggai 2:22-23). This is a reference to the millennium. It seems that our actions in this life can lead to blessings in the millennium.