
The Fight To Restart Your Rebuild (Fighting Against Time)

Rebuilding The Work

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Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: The Fight To Restart Your Rebuild (Fighting Against Time)

Lesson Text

Haggai 1:1–8 (KJV)¹ In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying, ² Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built. ³ Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, ⁴ *Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house *lie* waste? ⁵ Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. ⁶ Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes. ⁷ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. ⁸ Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

Introduction

As we get to the final messages of this 2nd series of 2023, “Rebuild, Revive, and Restore,” we want to continue our journey on Rebuilding the Work that God started in us and for one reason or another it was torn down.

In one of our previous messages (Rebuilding During The Delay), we learned how to keep building when the Enemy is plotting against us (God's got a Plan), rebuilding when the enemy is attacking us (God renews us when we get weak), and rebuilding when the enemy stops us (the stoppage is only be for a period of time, “Until” God restarts it).

Ezra 4: ²⁴ So the work on the Temple of God in Jerusalem had stopped, and it remained at a standstill ***until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.***

But many times when God removes the barriers, we don't show up to restart the work!

Have you ever started something and got delayed or stopped for one reason or another? One of the hardest things to do is to restart it again after the delay. Maybe you were going with your diet and exercise, but then you went on vacation. It's hard to get restarted!

This was the challenge with the Children of Israel. Two years after the work of building the temple had ceased, the new King had allowed the work of the temple to begin again. But for one reason or another, they had not restarted.

They were back from vacation, but they just couldn't seem to find the time to get back to work.

- Haggai 1: ² ... The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.
 - This was a struggle against “Chronos Time” (chronological time of hours, days, year); they convinced themselves that, “I'll get to it tomorrow!”
- Haggai 1: ⁴ *Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house *lie* waste?

- This was a struggle against “Kairos Time” (historical moments of opportune time); they convinced themselves that, “It’s just not the right time!”
- Haggai 1: ⁷ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.
 - This was a struggle against “Perception Time” (psychological time based on the subjectivity of the mind); they no longer had the joy and excitement they once had.

Whenever there has been a delay or stoppage in what God has called you to do, when we get back from vacation, there will always be a struggle to get back to work.

Haggai 1: ⁷ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. ⁸ Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

But regardless of the struggle of your time, God needs us to fight against our times and get back to work.

Series and Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: The Fight To Restart Your Rebuild (Fighting Against Time)

“Fighting Against Chronos Time, Kairos Time, and Perception ”

I. Fighting Against Chronos Time (Our Time vs. God’s Time)

Haggai 1: ² Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD’S house should be built.

Chronos is the quantitative measurable amount of time measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years.

Ecclesiastes 3: ¹ To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

This chapter goes on to give us 28 times or seasons of life including a time to be born and a time to die, a time to laugh and a time to cry, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to get and a time to lose, a time to build and a time to tear down.

The problem that we have with Chronos or chronological time is that we can only think in terms of one thing at a time. So, when we are at one time, we can’t comprehend or handle other times.

We get busy building our houses, getting our cars, getting our 401ks, building our businesses, climbing our corporate ladders that we can’t handle building God’s house.

Or maybe we’re struggling in our time of loss, crying, mourning, or tearing down so that we’re too depressed to even comprehend the time to do the things of the Lord.

But Our Time is not God’s Time!

2 Peter 3: ⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

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God is in all times, He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Ending. He's Omnipresent, which is the presence of God everywhere at the same time.

So, while you're in your suffering, God is already in your Glory (Romans 8: ¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.)

While you're still dealing with sorrow, God has already turned it into Joy (John 16: ²⁰ **Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.**)

While you are still crying through the night, God is already in your morning time (Psalm 30: ⁵ For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.)

To fight against your time, you have to get in God's Time and Restart Your Rebuild!

II. Fighting Against Kairos Time (Our Ways vs. God's Ways)

Haggai 1: ⁴ *Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house *lie* waste? ⁵ Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Kairos are the moments, events, seasons, or opportune times in which things happen for us. Life is measured by significant moments in our life. You remember when you graduated, you fell in love, got married, 911, the pandemic, you lost your job, a loved one died.

As we have more and more Kairos moments, we begin to define our lives based on these significant moments, and they begin to form the way we think and the way we behave.

A failed marriage, the loss of a job, the devastation of the pandemic, a failed business, or the betrayal of a close friend are all symbolic of Kairos moments that shape and form our ways.

Psalm 51: ⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Romans 7: ²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Because of our nature (what we were born with), and our nurture (how we were formed), it creates ways of thinking and ways of behavior that are antithetical to the will of God for our lives.

And so, God says "Consider Your Ways!" Look at what your ways are doing!

Haggai 1: ⁶ Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes.

We have to change our ways!

Isaiah 55: ⁸ For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Philippians 2: ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. To fight against your ways, you have to get in God's Ways and Restart Your Rebuild!

III. Fighting Against Perception Time (Our Mind vs. God's Mind)

Haggai 1: ⁷ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. ⁸ Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

To Restart Your Rebuild:

- You have to fight against your Chronos Time and let God change your time.
- You have to fight against your Kairos Time and change your ways.
- You have to fight against your Perception Time and change your mind.

Perception or Psychological Time is based on our individual subjective feelings we form based on our personal experiences.

And based on these experiences, time will either be very frustrating, aggravating, disappointing, and depressing or it will be very exciting, thrilling, joyful, and glorified.

The difference on whether our Perception time will be exciting and glorify God or be depressing and aggravating is what's going on in our mind.

Ephesians 4: ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

When we allow the emotion of anger to dwell in us, then we will produce constant frustration, bitterness, wrath, and even vengeance.

But there is another mind that can change everything, and it is the Mind of God!

Philippians 2: ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Nehemiah 8: ¹⁰ ... for *this* day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

John 14: ²⁷ **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

Isaiah 40: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Fight to Restart Your Rebuild by fighting your time, fighting your ways and fighting your mind.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fight To Restart Your Rebuild (Fighting Against Time))

Lesson Text

- Haggai 1:1–8

Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *Fighting Against Chronos Time (Our Time vs. God's Time)*
- II. *Fighting Against Kairos Time (Our Ways vs. God's Ways)*
- III. *Fighting Against Perception Time (Our Mind vs. God's Mind)*

Questions (What was your takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. What color best describes your personality?
2. Would you rather have a pause button for your life or a rewind button? Why?

II. Into the Bible

Read Isaiah 55:10-11 Or Psalms 103:7-12.

1. What does the scripture you chose teach you about God's ways?
2. How does knowing these truths help us restart after a delay?

III. Life Application

1. What hinders you from your Restart to Rebuild? Which "time" are you fighting against the most? After today's sermon, how can you overcome these hindrances?
2. Role play skit: One of your Growth Group members is in an unpleasant situation where he does not understand why God is allowing this to happen. Create a skit using any of the principles preached in the sermon to help this member to experience victory in his life.