

REALIGNING OUR HEARTS DURING LENT: HAGGAI 1:1-15

Haggai 1: 1 On August 29 of the second year of King Darius's reign, the Lord gave a message through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

2 "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.'" **3** Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: **4** "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?"

DISCUSS V.2 -4 WHAT IS THE TEXT COMMUNICATING?

5 This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: **Look at what's happening to you!** **6** You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! **7** "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: **Look at what's happening to you!** **8** Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord. **9** You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses. **10** It's because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. **11** I have called for a drought on your fields and hills—a drought to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a drought to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get."

DISCUSS V.5-11 WHAT IS THE TEXT COMMUNICATING?

LOOK THINK CONSIDER: STOP. REFLECT. EXAMINE. REALIGN. THIS IS WHAT LENT IS ABOUT. A SACRED PAUSE TO DO THESE THINGS.

WHERE AM I SPIRITUALLY DRY?
WHAT AM I BUILDING THAT CANNOT SATISFY?
WHAT HAS QUIETLY REPLACED FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE?
WHERE AM I SAYING I WILL BE OBEDIENT, *ITS JUST NOT TIME?*

12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of God's people ***began to obey the message from the Lord their God.*** When they heard the words of the prophet Haggai, whom the Lord their God had sent, the people feared the Lord. **13** Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave the people this ***message from the Lord: "I am with you, says the Lord!"***
REALIGNMENT REQUIRES MOVEMENT BACK TOWARDS GOD.

"DRAW NEAR TO ME AND I WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU" " (James 4:8) is a promise emphasizing that when individuals take steps of faith, repentance, and prayer to seek God, ***He responds by drawing closer to them with His presence, guidance, and purification***

14 So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the enthusiasm of Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God's people. They began to work on the house of their God, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, **15** on September 21[c] of the second year of King Darius's reign.

Repentance is not just sorrow. It is rebuilding what has been neglected.

For us, rebuilding might look like: Restoring daily Scripture reading, Reordering schedules, Reclaiming generosity, Removing distractions...

HOPE SHOT: "I am with you."

The season of Lent leads us to the cross — where grace and truth meet. It is God's gracious invitation to realign our priorities and experience His presence again.

HOW WILL I APPLY THIS SCRIPTURE?

How am I being asked to: Stop? Reflect? Examine? Realign?

Where have I said, "Not now" to God?

What is my "paneled house"?

What is one practical act of obedience I will begin this week?