

"Our Hopeful Future"

Haggai 2:6-23

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Background

This week we conclude our series by looking at Haggai 2:6-23, where we see an important reminder of our hopeful future. We'll explore what hope is, what the Bible says about it, and how this section of Scripture points to three specific reasons for hope for God's people in the story and for our lives. See you Sunday!

Sermon Text *Haggai 2:6-23*

⁶ "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. ⁷ I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty. ⁸ 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. ⁹ 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place, I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty."

¹⁰ On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Haggai: ¹¹ "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Ask the priests what the law says: ¹² If someone carries consecrated meat in

the fold of their garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, olive oil or other food, does it become consecrated?"

The priests answered, "No."

¹³ Then Haggai said, "If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touch one of these things, does it become defiled?"

"Yes," the priests replied, "it becomes defiled."

¹⁴ Then Haggai said, "'So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,' declares the Lord. 'Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.

¹⁵ "'Now give careful thought to this from this day on—consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the Lord's temple. ¹⁶ When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. ¹⁷ I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not return to me,' declares the Lord. ¹⁸ 'From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid. Give careful thought: ¹⁹ Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit.

"From this day on I will bless you."

²⁰ The word of the Lord came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month: ²¹ "Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. ²² I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother.

²³ "'On that day,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the Lord Almighty."

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

Question 1: Defining the Object of Hope

The Question: The sermon defines biblical hope as a "confident expectancy" in God's character and ability to fulfill His promises, rather than a flimsy "wish" for things we cannot control. Read Haggai 2:6-7 and Romans 15:13. How does shifting the object of your hope from *circumstances* to *God's character* change how you feel about the "unknowns" in your life right now?

Question 2: The Contagion of the Heart

The Question: In Haggai 2:10-14, the Lord illustrates that while ritual holiness is not transferable by contact, uncleanness is. Why do you think we are often tempted to believe that religious "function" (doing the right things) can compensate for a heart that is far from God?. What is one specific "religious ritual" in your life that you need to re-examine to ensure it is motivated by a sincere heart rather than mere form?

Question 3: Considering the History of Discipline and Grace

The Question: God commands the people to "give careful thought" to how life was before they returned to the rebuilding effort, specifically noting the times of "fruitless toil". When you look back at a season of "blight or mildew" in your own history, can you now see God's hand in it, attempting to "return you to Him"?. How does this perspective change how you view your current difficulties?

Question 4: Reasons for hope

The Question: The sermon emphasizes that we have three reasons for hope: 1. We are now living in the apex of our earthly experience. 2. We are now living in the season of this ongoing blessing that was prophesied and that will continue into eternity 3. Our Lord and Savior Jesus is the chosen eternal King. We are following the right person.

Can you elaborate these three reasons?

Question 5: The Authority of the Chosen

The Question: Zerubbabel was chosen as God's "signet ring," representing divine presence and authority. In Christ, you have also been "stamped with the seal" of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13) and given authority to use His name. How should this reality change your "defeated mindset" into a "victorious, overcoming mindset" this week?. In what practical way can you "leave God's imprint" on a difficult situation you are currently facing?