

## **Haggai: WHOSE HOUSE AM I BUILDING?**

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August 17, 2025

### **Ezra 3:10–11 (NLT)**

When the builders completed the foundation of the LORD's Temple, the priests put on their robes and took their places to blow their trumpets. And the Levites, descendants of Asaph, clashed their cymbals to praise the LORD, just as King David had prescribed. <sup>11</sup> With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the LORD: "He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!" Then all the people gave a great shout, praising the LORD because the foundation of the LORD's Temple had been laid.

### **Ezra 4:4–5 (NLT)**

Then the local residents tried to discourage and frighten the people of Judah to keep them from their work. <sup>5</sup> They bribed agents to work against them and to frustrate their plans...

## **GOD'S WILL IS NOT NECESSARILY THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE - EXPECT OPPOSITION**

### **Ezra 4:24 (NLT)**

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.

### **Haggai 1:1–4 (NLT)**

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. <sup>2</sup> "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.' " <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD sent this message through the prophet Haggai: <sup>4</sup> "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?

## **ACTIVELY AND CONTINUALLY BUILD THE TEMPLE OF YOUR LIFE**

### **Haggai 1:5–11 (NLT)**

This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! <sup>6</sup> 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!

<sup>7</sup> "This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> It's because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. <sup>11</sup> 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."

## **FRUITFULNESS AND SATISFACTION IS LINKED TO OUR OBEDIENCE**

### **Haggai 1:12–15 (NLT)**

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. <sup>13</sup> Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave the people this message from the LORD: "I am with you, says the LORD!" <sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> on September 21 of the second year of King Darius's reign.

## **ALLOW GOD TO COMPEL YOU INTO ENTHUSIASTIC OBEDIENCE**

### **Haggai 2:1–5 (NLT)**

Then on October 17 of that same year, the LORD sent another message through the prophet Haggai. <sup>2</sup> "Say this to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of God's people there in the land: <sup>3</sup> 'Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all! <sup>4</sup> But now the LORD says: Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. <sup>5</sup> My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.'

## **AS WE OBEY HIS PRESENCE IS WITH US**

### **Haggai 2:13–19 (NLT)**

Then Haggai asked, "If someone becomes ceremonially unclean by touching a dead person and then touches any of these foods, will the food be defiled?" And the priests answered, "Yes." <sup>14</sup> Then Haggai responded, "That is how it is with this people and this nation, says the LORD. Everything they do and everything they offer is defiled by their sin. <sup>15</sup> Look at what was happening to you before you began to lay the foundation of the LORD's Temple. <sup>16</sup> When you hoped for a twenty-bushel crop, you harvested only ten. When you expected to draw fifty gallons from the winepress, you found only twenty. <sup>17</sup> I sent blight and mildew and hail to destroy everything you worked so hard to produce. Even so, you refused to return to me, says the LORD. <sup>18</sup> "Think about this eighteenth day of December, the day when the foundation of the LORD's Temple was laid. Think carefully. <sup>19</sup> I am giving you a promise now while the seed is still in the barn. You have not yet harvested your grain, and your grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees have not yet produced their crops. But from this day onward I will bless you."

## **WHEN WE OBEY WITH UNDEFILED HEARTS - GOD ALLOWS OUR EFFORTS TO BEAR FRUIT**

## **WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP OF OBEDIENCE FOR YOU?**