

MAKE ROOM FOR GRACE

A STUDY OF THE
BOOK OF HAGGAI



PRAYING

FOR

OTHERS

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Fifth Grade class
- Our small group led by Jack and Linda Steen
- The Bible Seminary
- Our neighboring brothers and sisters at St Paul's Episcopal Church
- Our mission team serving in Mexico led by Mitch Trotter
- The Ban*jar of Indonesia

We ask all this for the glory of Your name.

“For My House Shall Be Called A House Of Prayer For All Nations.” Isaiah 56:7

Please pray for this request shared during last week's worship service.

Make Room for Grace

“Make Room for God’s House” – Haggai 1:1-8

October 1, 2023

Fall Sermon Series

MAKE ROOM FOR GRACE		
<i>A Study of the Book of Haggai</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Oct 1	Make Room for God’s House	Haggai 1:1-8
Oct 8	Make Room for Obedience	Haggai 1:9-15
Oct 15	Make Room for God’s Glory	Haggai 2:1-9
Oct 22	Make Room for Sanctification	Haggai 2:10-19
Oct 29	Make Room for the Future	Haggai 2:20-23

Background to the Book of Haggai

- The history of Israel – exile in Babylon for 70 years.
- Most people quote Jeremiah 29:11 without staring Jeremiah 25:11 in the face first.
- After 70 years of captivity in Babylon, a remnant of the Jewish people returns to Jerusalem in response King Cyrus’ decree and begins rebuilding the temple of God (Ezra 1:1-4). They get the foundation of the temple built (Ezra 3:10-13). But opposition from bad guys cause them to stop their rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 4:24). Fifteen years go by, and then...
- ***Ezra 5:1-2***
- What did Haggai and Zechariah say that inspired the people to start building again?
- **Application Question:** What is a goal or dream in your life that you have given up on? (Perhaps something God told you to do.) Is there an area in your life where you have stopped trying because of the difficulties of life and because of opposition?
- The Israelites’ dream was to have a temple where they could worship God according to the Bible. Opposition and difficulties had stopped their dream. What did Haggai say that led them to start building again?

Haggai’s Message to Israel and Us (Haggai 1:1-8)

Haggai’s Counter-Intuitive Message:

The key to fulfilling your dreams is to take your eyes off of yourself and off of your dreams and to put your eyes on the Lord.
Consider your ways!

Haggai's Counter-Intuitive Message (Haggai 1:1-8; key word "consider")

1. Consider the priority of _____

(vv.4-5)

- The Israelites had built houses for themselves but were neglecting to build the Lord's house. Actually, they had built luxurious houses for themselves.
- "Paneled houses" refers to the use of expensive timber that had to be imported. According to Ezra 3:7, the Israelites imported expensive cedar wood from Lebanon (15 years ago) in order to use it for building the temple. But instead of using it for the temple, they used it for their own homes.
- Micah Fries: "Haggai specifically contrasts their 'paneled houses' with the temple, which 'lies in ruins.' These are strong words and are intended to clarify the radical disparity between their own standard of living and the condition of the house of God. They were living in comfort while God's house remained unbuilt and God's will remained undone."
- In God's economy, we are to prioritize God and His Kingdom first, and then He promises to take care of the rest.
- **Matthew 6:33** – *Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
- **Application #1** – In what ways have I prioritized myself over the Lord? What steps do I need to take to prioritize the Lord first?

2. Consider the cause of the _____

(vv.5-6)

- The Jewish people of 520 BC were experiencing an economic downturn. Haggai challenged them to ask "Why?" The answer is because they were not prioritizing the Lord and obeying the last thing He told them to do – namely, build the temple.
- A simple observation of the entire Old Testament: Whenever the Jewish people (corporately, together) put God first through their obedience to His Word and through faithful worship, God blessed their economy (Deuteronomy 11:13-15). And whenever they didn't obey, their economy suffered (Deuteronomy 11:16-17).
- **An Important Question:** Do the Old Testament (old covenant) verses about finances and the economy still apply during the new covenant times that we live in?
- **The Prosperity Gospel's answer:** Yes.
- Matthew Wilson: "Prosperity theology is a religious belief among some Christians that financial blessing and physical well-being are always the will of God for them, and that faith, positive speech, and donations to religious causes will increase one's material wealth. Material and especially financial success is seen as a sign of divine favor."

- **The Dispensationalist’s answer:** No.
- Lewis Sperry Chafer: “No blessings are dependent on tithing.”
- **Jim’s answer:** No and yes – it’s complicated! We are living in the new covenant times of grace (versus the old covenant times of law). We are saved by grace through faith – not by our works (Ephesians 2:8-9). All of God’s gifts to us (including finances) are by His grace (James 1:17; Ecclesiastes 5:19; 1 Timothy 6:17-18). We don’t earn gifts from God. But the New Testament appears to teach that God blesses generous givers so that they can give more.
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-11** – *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.... He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way.*
- **Question:** Why has God blessed America?
 - According to the World Giving Index, America is the most charitable nation in the whole world.
 - **Psalm 33:12** – *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*
 - American money says: “In God we trust.”
- **Question:** Why has God blessed Chick-fil-a?

Emma Green: “Truett Cathy started keeping a ‘closed-on-Sundays’ policy when he opened his first diner in Hapeville, Georgia, in 1946, for religious reasons: He didn’t believe in ‘dealing with money on the Lord’s Day.’ In its official policy, the company states that ‘Cathy believes that being closed on Sunday says two important things to people: One, that there must be something special about the way Chick-fil-A people view their spiritual life and, two, that there must be something special about how Chick-fil-A feels about its people.’ Even though most people would think this policy costs the company money, Cathy once said ‘I feel it’s the best business decision I ever made.’”
- **Application #2** – In what ways is God calling me to be a more generous person? How can I sow my seed into the Kingdom?

3. Consider who is _____ (vv.7-8)

- The major message of the Book of Haggai is for us to consider our ways – to take our eyes off of ourselves and to put our eyes on God.
- Rick Warren: “It’s not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or

even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose."

- Westminster Confession: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."
- Application #3 – What does it look like for me to live my life Soli Deo Gloria – "for the Glory of God alone"?

Making Haggai 1:1-8 Personal in My Life and Church

1. Consider the dream God gave you.

- What is a goal or dream in your life that you have given up on? Is there something that you feel like God told you to do that you have not completed? Is there an area in your life where you have stopped trying because of the difficulties of life or because of opposition?
- What is God speaking to you through His prophet Haggai today?
 - Consider your ways.
 - Consider the priority of the Lord's work.
 - Consider the cause of the halting of your dream.
 - Consider the Lord and His glory.

2. Consider the dream God has given to your church.

- God has given your church a dream called "Make Room for Grace" – the dream of making room for 1000 new people by...
 - Building a permanent home for our North Katy Campus
 - Building a discipleship building ("The Gathering Place") on our Cinco Ranch Campus
 - Providing seed money for the launching of a (future) third campus.
- We are trusting God to provide \$16 million to do these three projects through His people turning in faith commitment cards on Sunday, October 29, during the worship services that morning.
- **Informational Meeting** today (Oct 1) at 3pm in the Cinco Ranch Worship Center.
- **Congregational Vote #1** (regarding North Katy Campus) on Sunday, October 8, at 3pm in the Cinco Ranch Worship Center.
- **Congregational Vote #2** (regarding the discipleship building) sometime in December or January.

"Build the house that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified," says the Lord. ~ Haggai 1:8

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Today at 3p—Cinco Ranch Campus
Worship Center



Childcare available

Come hear exciting information of Make Room for Grace and the property the we are proposing to buy and renovate for the North Katy Campus.

This will be the opportunity to ask questions for the Congregational Vote on October 8 for North Katy Campus' future home. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

Sunday, October 8 at 3p

Cinco Ranch Campus Worship Center

This vote will exclusively be for (1) the purchase of North Katy Campus building and land and (2) seek approval for a short-term loan.



Childcare available

Join us for the next

30 DAYS OF PRAYER

as we pray for

MAKE ROOM FOR GRACE



Pick up your 30 day prayer guide today in the worship center lobby.

Text "MAKE ROOM" to 855.792.6360 for opportunities to go deeper in the place of prayer as we MAKE ROOM for Grace with weekly texts or use the QR Code.

Join the corporate reading of the book of Haggai every Wednesday in October 6-7p in the Prayer Center.



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