

# Haggai Part 1

## *When God Asks Questions*

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*Luke Knight*



### **Haggai's Background**

- Short book with a time span of four months
- We know little about Haggai, the man
- We know much about the time Haggai lived
- Jews have returned from Exile in Babylon after seventy years. The city is a mess and they're faced with overwhelming obstacles
- Haggai begins as a book about unfulfilled intention

### **1: 1-4**

- God asks questions about the priorities of his people, *"is it time for you to build your houses while God's house lies desolate?"*
- The people have procrastinated in building the Temple, the religious centre of their city. This betrayed the fact that they didn't value God in this challenging season
- Haggai's words remind the people that God doesn't take a back seat to anyone

### **1: 5-11**

- Haggai says the people have it the wrong way round. They're trying to provide for themselves, but they end up unsatisfied
- They are not to try and scrape by, but prioritize the worship of God and he will take care of the rest
- Jehovah Jireh – God Provides. A hard lesson for Abraham, and God's people
- We hear the phrase *"Consider your ways"* 5 times. This reminds us that God cares about what his people do with their time
- He calls them to build the temple, to do a hard thing in the face of great adversity

### **Haggai reminds us:**

- God cares about what we do with our time, in fact, he *has something* for us to do with our time. He has a purpose and direction for us that that only benefits us but the world and mission he's called us to.
- God calls us out of just scraping by and the "someday" mentality of living. He calls us into obedience with abandon right now (Luke 9:62)

**Discussion Questions:**

- What gives God the right to demand such obedience and loyalty from his people?
- In Haggai (and other places in Scripture) we see God calling his people to hard things, to living beyond themselves. How do you think this counters a western culture that values “the good life” so highly?
- What have Christians been called to “build” and how does our “building” betray our priorities?
- What do you feel God said to you as we walked through the first part of Haggai?