

# CHARACTER LESSONS FROM BIBLE HEROES

July 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
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## Haggai: Prioritizing Prayer and Trusting the Will of God

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6

### Haggai 1:1-15

#### Background

- I. Israel was to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ nation. They were rescued from Pharaoh and Egypt because of God. They were to be an example to the other nations of being God's covenant people. If they were unfaithful to the covenant, they would be brought out of the promise land.
  - A. Exodus 19:5-6
  - B. Deuteronomy 28:15-16
- II. A large portion of God's people were exiled from Judah in 586 B.C. to Babylon because of their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ unfaithfulness.
  - A. Jeremiah 1:15-16
  - B. Jeremiah 2:16, 20
- III. The first temple in Jerusalem was \_\_\_\_\_ by Nebuchadnezzar's soldiers from Babylon (2 Kings 25:8-17).
- IV. After their exile to Babylon, God's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to rebuild the second temple precedes his request for obedience.
  - A. 2 Chronicles 36:23
  - B. Ezra 1:2-4
  - C. Ezra 6:3-5

#### God Questions Delay of the Second Temple's Construction (1:2-4, 9)

- I. God's house of prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. They people deny that it is time to build the temple and \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to their own homes instead.

#### Discipline of God's People For Not Building (1:2, 1:5-6, 1:10-11):

- A. They have sown much and harvested \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. They have eaten, but are still hungry.
- C. They drink, but are still \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. They put on clothing, but are still not warm.
- E. Their wages and income dissipate as though they have holes in their wallets.
- F. The rain is withheld for the growth of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Remnant's Solution to Discipline (v. 12)

- I. The people \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and obeyed God's instruction to rebuild the temple.
- II. Changed their priorities of \_\_\_\_\_ to serving God and rebuilding.

## God's is With Them (v. 13, 14)

- I. His \_\_\_\_\_ is with the people during their rebuilding.
- II. He \_\_\_\_\_ the remnants spirit to rebuild the temple.

## Why Rebuild the Second Temple?

I. Jesus called the temple a "House of prayer" (Matthew 21:13). This was a place of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7-8).

A. God's supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ works in our lives. God's will can be followed when we connect with Him in prayer.

B. Prayer should be \_\_\_\_\_ to our life, not peripheral.

C. Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ real.

D. Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_, personal communication with the God of the universe.

II. To make animal sacrifices for purification and forgiveness for sin's committed (Hebrews 10:11).

## So What?

I. We are temples of God where the Spirit of God dwells (1 Corinthians 6:19). What must we prioritize as temples of God?

A. Love God with all your \_\_\_\_\_, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37)

B. Love each other with \_\_\_\_\_ affection and take delight in honoring each other. (Romans 12:10)

C. We must \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

D. Be gracious to others (Ephesians 4:32).

E. As temples of God, who pray \_\_\_\_\_, we should be probed by the Spirit to love and serve others as a priority.

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33