

BIB 241 Minor Prophets

Lesson 10 - Haggai

Intro. Haggai goes back to the time of Ezra, after the captivity and their return from the exile. He is an older prophet and was alive during the captivity. He shows the wisdom and boldness of an aged prophet and is able to deliver his message in a concise way. They have returned to rebuild the temple. The work begins quickly but after some political opposition quickly ceases. They weren't finishing well. If there was a time in your life you were more zealous and diligent than you are now it is called backsliding. Backslide = to turn gradually from the faith and practice of Christianity

During this time the people return to their own business and the work is set aside for 16 years. It is then that God sends a message to Haggai whose name means festive. He gives four messages which are delivered during the key feast days of Israel.

1. His Ministry to Excite the People (1) (First message)

Note: Primary problem is distraction

- A. Excite the People to Repentance - 1-6 preaching against their sin
 - B. Consider their Procrastination - 2 - now is not the right time to serve
 - C. Consider their Prioritization - 3-4 - their own houses before God's house
 - D. Consider their Prosperity 5-6 that they still aren't satisfied or content
- E. Excite the People to Recognition 7-11
 - F. Recognition of the Lord's Displeasure 7-9
 - G. Recognition of the Lord's Dealings 10-11
- C. Excite the People to Revival 12-15
 - D. The Response 12
 - E. The Reassurance 13
 - F. The Renovation 14-15

2. His Ministry to Exhort the People (2)

Note: primary problem is discouragement and defilement

- A. Exhort the People Against Discouragement 1-9 (Second message)
 - The Present Conditions 1-3 they looked bad 'is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?' comparing first temple - older generation were discouraging the work because 'it isn't like it used to be'
 - B. The Promised Covenants 4-5 'Standing on the Promises' "I am with you"
 - C. The Prospective Coming 6-9 Christ would honor their labor by his presence in this temple therefore it would be more glorious than the first one even though it wouldn't have the same amount of gold and silver.
- B. Exhort the People Against Defilement 10-19 (Third Message)

1. Sin is contagious but holiness is not 10-14 Understand the serious need for holiness among the Lord's people - to obey (build) was better than sacrifice

Note: holiness is not only separation from something rather set aside for something.

2. End of the chastisement 15-19 Understand the use of chastisement was to bring them to provoke them to get back to work

Note: v 19 He predicts the blessing before the seed is even planted - we have the promise that the seed of His word will not return void

3. Exhort the People Against Dominion 20-23 (Fourth message) - oppression will eventually end
4. God will Manifest His Power 21-22 set up His throne
5. God will Manifest His Prince 23

Conclusion

The three greatest cause of backsliding: distraction, discouragement, and defilement. Great instruction concerning revival for backslidden people reluctant to engage in the Lord's work. He warns them against the effect of making possessions their central focus as opposed to their spiritual matters. "Set your affections on things above" "lay not up treasures upon earth"