

Zerubbabel, Part One

Haggai 1:1-15, 2:1-23

- **God's will today is that temple ministry be restored.**

1 Corinthians 3:16

You yourselves are God's temple... His Spirit dwells in you.

What Happens When We Neglect The Temple

1. Everything we work so hard for does not satisfy!

Haggai 1:5-6

Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house."

2. Even our so called "spiritual life" is lacking because our selfishness contaminates our sacrifice!

Haggai 2:11-17

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Ask the priests what the law says: If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?'" The priests answered, "No." Then Haggai said, "If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?" "Yes," the priests replied, "it becomes defiled." Then Haggai said, "'So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,'" declares the LORD. "'Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled. Now give careful thought to this from this day on--consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the LORD's temple. When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not turn to me,' declares the LORD.

3. God causes a drought to come upon our lives.

Haggai 1:10-11

"Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands."

- **The answer to this dilemma is to take on the spirit of Zerubbabel.**

Haggai 1:14

So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel... and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God...

How We Begin:

1. We begin by taking a trip to the mountain.

Haggai 1:8

“Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD.

2. We begin by worshipping God earnestly through obedience.

Haggai 1:12

Then Zerubbabel... and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.

1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”

3. We begin by taking courage and beginning to work.

Haggai 2:4

“But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,” declares the LORD. “...Be strong, all you people of the land,” declares the LORD, “and work. For I am with you,” declares the LORD Almighty.