

Series: Haggai: A Minor Prophet with a BIG Message!

Sermon: An Incorrect Perspective

Passage: Haggai 2:1-9

Illustration:

Need: If Christians see God's work through an incorrect human perspective, they can become discouraged and quit or pursue the wrong things entirely.

I. Man's Perspective (2:1-3)

- 7th Month 21st Day (last day of the Feast of Tabernacles)
- 440 years earlier King Solomon's temple was dedicated during the Feast of Tabernacles (1 Kings 8:2).
- God demonstrated that the remnant was looking at the temple project with an incorrect perspective.
- Q#1 = "Who is left among you who saw this house (temple) in it's former glory?"
 - 606 BC - 1st deportation by Babylon & the beginning of the 70 years of captivity.
 - 586 BC - destruction of the temple by Babylon.
 - 538 BC - only 66 years later. Possible that many of the remnant had seen former temple.
- Q#2 = "How do you see it now?" - This is never going to look like or be what it used to be.
- Q#3 = "Is it not as nothing in your eyes?" - Why are we even bothering to rebuild this thing; we don't even have the ark of the covenant?

II. Divine Instructions (2:4-5)

- Instruction #1: "Be Strong! Be Strong! Be Strong!"
- Instruction #2: "Work...according to the covenant I made with you when you came out of Egypt."
 - Because "I am with you"
 - Because "My Spirit remains in your midst"
- Instruction #3: "Fear Not!"
- God's words to Moses & Israel - **Ex. 19:4; 33:14**
- God's words to Joshua - **Josh. 1:5-9**
- God's words to Solomon - **1 Chron. 28:10, 20**
- Jesus' words to Christians - **Matt. 28:20**

III. God's Perspective (2:6-9)

- It's not about what you're seeing now.
- It's not about what you're doing but about what I'm doing and what I'm doing through you.
- You can't look at what's in front of you through the lens of what's behind you, good or bad.
- There's no comparing now with what is to come when God's purposes are complete.

IV. NT Application

- What kind of perspective you have on the church, your own life, and the gospel ministry?
- Obeying Christ is not vain labor no matter how fruitless it looks. **1 Cor. 15:58**
- Making disciples will require courageous faith. **1 Cor. 16:13**
- Jesus will sustain His disciples until the end. **1 Cor. 1:7-8**