

Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

The Potential of The New Normal

Life Group Discussion
August 29, 2020

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experiencelibrary.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

Sermon Bible Verses: **Haggai 2**

Hag 2:21 - *"Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth. 22 - I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother. 'In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,' says the LORD, 'and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,' says the LORD of hosts."*

"In this new normal of our day, God has given us His promises! They are contained in His Word and they will be fulfilled!"

---Pastor matt Burrell

Remember as we close out the Book of Haggai that three prophetic words have already been delivered:

- 1) The first prophecy is a call to be busy with the work of building the temple accompanied by a warning against further neglect of the work.
- 2) The second prophecy, found in Haggai 2:1-9, is the most important of them all. In it God addresses the discouragement of the people, who could see, now that the work was progressing, that the temple they were building was not much in comparison with Solomon's temple
- 3) The third prophecy is a reminder to the people, through an example taken from the law of Moses, that because the work was God's work, they must be holy and work with holy hands.

This fourth and final prophetic word from God to the people of Israel that Haggai delivers speaks again of the coming of Christ as the one in whom all the promises of God concerning the temple would be fulfilled

God has a plan:

- God has a plan for each of us to reach the fulfillment of the final redemption of mankind. What is your role in His plan?
- Why does God reveal future events through Haggai...what is the purpose?
- God wants us to know He is sovereign and reigns over the whole earth. In what ways does this knowledge bring peace to your heart in times of trouble?
- Did God have a "uh-oh" moment when COVID showed up...was he surprised by it...did it throw him for a loop? The answer is no He did not. Why then do we as professing Christians lose our faith in what God is doing or the way He is doing it, especially when circumstance seems not on our side?
- How does your life plan and God's plan differ and what can you do to align your life plan with God's plan?

God is the God of I will

Four times God tells Haggai “I will”.

- When God does an act of divine will, why does He use people sometimes to carry out His will?
- God uses words like shake, overthrow and destroy. These words imply force and fear by the sheer might of His power. Do you think God should be feared or has the church made Him soft and if so how can we change man’s limited understanding of Gods’ wrath?
- Ultimately God is the One who subdues kingdoms and peoples and governments. Consider the former empires of the earth; The Persians and Medes and Assyrians and Greeks and Romans and all of the great leaders who ruled over them. Where are they now? How long before our nation is conquered?

God says “in that day”

- When is the Lord returning? How should our lives be lived until that time and are we living in a way that glorifies the Lord?
- Consider that at the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will return with the hosts of heaven as well as the Church to establish the Messianic Kingdom on earth. His Kingdom will last for a thousand years. Revelation 20 tells us The Messianic kingdom will close with apostasy and rebellion. God will crush this uprising in the last battle of the ages and Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire. All those who rejected the Word of God will be resurrected. They will be judged by Christ and cast into the lake of fire, the place where they will suffer final and everlasting punishment. So, who is in control? JESUS !

Summary of Principles from Haggai –

1. The work of the Lord should never be procrastinated (Haggai 1:3)
2. Misplaced priorities hinder the work of God (Haggai 1:4,9)
3. The goal of God’s work is His glory and pleasure. (Haggai 1:8)
4. God sometimes uses natural disasters for spiritual discipline (Haggai 1:6,10,11)
5. Obedience and reverence are prerequisites for spiritual blessing (Haggai 1:12-14)
6. It is never too late to start obeying God (Haggai 1:12-15)
7. Courage comes from knowing that God is present (Haggai 2:1-4)
8. The remedy for a discouraged heart is to see the divine perspective (Haggai 2:6-7)
9. Everything belongs to and is under the control of the Lord (Haggai 2:7-8)
10. Holiness is not transferable (Haggai 2:11-12)
11. Sin contaminates everything one does (Haggai 2:13-14)
12. Disobedience brings discipline, while obedience guarantees blessing (Haggai 2:15-19)
13. God is sovereign over the nations and kingdoms of this world. (Haggai 2:20-22)
14. The covenants of the Lord are guaranteed to be fulfilled (Haggai 2:23)