



ONE HITWONDERS

JULY 19 • HAGGAI

CHIP UHRMACHER, CEDAR FALLS CAMPUS PASTOR

INTRODUCTION

This is the third week of our series exploring smaller books of the Bible. The book of Haggai is a message to the people of Israel that their obedience matters to God, and if they keep their end of the bargain, He will keep His promises to them. Why? Because God uses our obedience to work His plans out in the world.

DISCUSSION

The temple was the center of Israelite society. In a spiritual sense, it was the symbolic “resting place” of God’s presence and the way they ensured they were in right relationship with Him. It was also the center of cultural activity, the spot for cultural festivals and held their judicial system. For educational purposes, scripture and national literature was read at the temple. It was the system that held them together as a people, from preserving their national identity all the way down to caring for the needs of the community (particularly the poor, orphans, widows, etc.). Without the temple, it was essentially every man for himself.

1. **Read Haggai 1:1-12.** In his message, Pastor Chip asked, “What are you building?” Discuss why this question is important to us nearly 3,000 years later.
2. **Read Haggai 2:1-9.** Pastor Chip asks, “Whose strength are you building with?” It’s human nature to get working on something God has put on our heart but in our own strength. Discuss why it’s important to work with God’s strength and rather than our own. Share an experience you’ve had (either working in your own strength or the Lord’s). How did it go? What did you learn?
3. **Read Haggai 2:10-14, 19,** and discuss Pastor Chip’s last question: “Are you building with your heart or just your hands?” Why is this question vital to our spiritual journey?

DO SOMETHING

1. Every day this week, reflect on the three questions from the message, and ask yourself, “Is my life bearing fruit?” You might be surprised at what you learn through this repetitive reflection.
2. **Read and reflect on 2 Chronicles 7:14.** While this verse was not written about the U.S. and should not be taken out of context, it’s helpful as a prayer for your personal journey: “Lord, humble me. I want to seek your face. I want to know you better. Show me my sin, and help me repent.”
3. The nation of Israel was directed to offer sacrifices for communal as well as personal sin. Quiet your heart, and ask the Lord to reveal any communal sin we need to repent of. As He reveals these to you, confess and repent.
4. Share these experiences with a friend or mentor, and celebrate the good things God is doing in your lives.
5. Ask the Lord to inspire you with new and fresh ways to engage your Little Iowa and influence your world for Jesus.

RESOURCES

1. Read Scriptures connected with the book of Haggai: Ezra, Zechariah, Joshua 1:6-7, 8, 19; 1 Peter 4:10, John 2:18-22
2. Read *Thriving in Babylon* by Larry Osborn, available on [Amazon](#).
3. Read a commentary on Haggai. Many are available on [Amazon](#).
4. Watch the [RightNow Media](#) series *Minor Prophets* by J.B. Nicholson.
5. Watch The Bible Project’s [video summary of Haggai](#).