

I. The brief back story.

- A.** We're going to be looking at the book of Haggai for the next four weeks leading up to the Central Illinois Prayer Summit. There's immense value in surveying the historical and future eschatological (end-time) implications of the book, but for this study I'm focusing mostly on the prophetic application—what I feel the Spirit is saying directly to us through the text. In doing so, I do not mean to minimize the legitimacy of these hermeneutical approaches, but to tackle them all simultaneously would take too long.
- B.** The book of Haggai covers a four-month span in which the prophet successfully motivates and mobilizes the leaders and the people to restart and eventually finish building what would become the second temple (Zerubbabel's temple). The first temple, Solomon's temple, had been destroyed in 586 B.C. In 538 B.C., waves of Israelites had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple following an edict from King Cyrus, but after a year of rebuilding, the people quit for various reasons. For the better part of 20 years they did nothing until Haggai was sent from God to stir them up to start building again in 520 B.C.
- C.** Recap of last week: we discussed the main issues that God addressed among the leaders and all of the people. Due to a number of circumstances, everyone was saying it wasn't the time to rebuild and their priorities were misplaced—God was not first. The Lord, in turn, resisted His people on a number of levels (agriculturally, financially, etc.) in order to get their attention.
- D.** Read Haggai 1:12-2:9. (This is 23 days after Haggai's first message in 1:1-11)

II. God's second message through Haggai: "I am with you."

- A. The people commit to obey (1:12):** The people receive a difficult first message of corrective admonition and respond in obedience.
- B. God speaks a second time (1:13):** After heeding the message, the people hear a positive and hopeful message from God.
- C. God grants the grace of a renewed sitting (1:14-15):** The people find themselves with spiritual fervor again and motivated to accomplish the task they had returned to complete.
- D. Application:** When we commit to obey God wholeheartedly, even after long seasons of spiritual resignation, that's generally when God begins to speak to us with a more positive and hopeful tone. God will always seem severe when we're living in half-hearted devotion or compromise. But as soon as we commit to truly live in His ways, the fog lifts and we begin to see His goodness again.

III. God's third message through Haggai: "Be strong, work hard and know I'm with you." (About a month after the second message.)

- A. God speaks of the glory of Solomon's temple (2:1-3):** God asks His people to recall the glory of the former temple, which was Solomon's temple. Some of the returning Israelites had seen it and been in it before it was destroyed.
- B. God reemphasizes that He's with the people (2:4-5):** The task of building another temple was going to be lengthy and discouraging at times, especially since some of the Israelites had personally seen Solomon's temple in all of its glory. It likely seemed impossible to build anything even close to what that temple had been.
- C. God gives the ultimate encouragement (2:6-7):** God goes so far as to say that the temple that was being built would be even more glorious than Solomon's temple. It would be a place of peace and not fear. Truly, the glory days were not in the past, but ahead.
- These two verses, perhaps more than any other in the book of Haggai, speak beautifully and clearly about our future hope. Jesus, who is the ultimate Desire of the nations, will come again to a third/millennial temple. The glory of the last temple will be the greatest because He will be there (after His second coming) and He will bring about a lasting (eternal) worldwide peace from this house of prayer in Jerusalem.
- D. Application:** Whatever God has done in the past/your past—however glorious it was—it will always be outdone by what He does in the future. The glory days are never behind us, but ahead. As He showed us at Cana, Jesus saves the best wine for last.

IV. Brothers and sisters, once again, it's time to build God's house.

- A.** It's time to take the building of this house of prayer to another level. I believe this message is a timely word for us specifically and that He's calling us to finish the foundation and keep building.
- B.** The "foundation" of the GPHOP is our morning and evening prayer sets. It's step one of the building project so to speak. I'm in need of and therefore inviting any and all to build up these prayer/worship times. Consider coming to prayer on a regular basis.

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for April 13, 2018

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** The 2nd annual Central Illinois Prayer Summit will be May 4-5 (Friday and Saturday) here at the GPHOP. Check out our website Events tab for all the details.
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandykistner@yahoo.com if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School, Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Amy Dirks** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who are beginning a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
6. **Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), kingdom business prayer groups (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
7. We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
8. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
9. **Giving:** The prayer room budget is approximately \$3,000 per month. If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. There is a large fellowship area downstairs if you would like to talk at length.*