

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 prophetic turning point of when God told Israel that despite their past He was now going to bless them. This was solely by the mercy of God. It was not because they were Israel (in the sense of God's chosen people) and it wasn't because of their obedience (they had been wholly disobedient to God as a nation).
- D. Read Haggai 2:20-2:23. (This fourth and final message of Haggai was given the same day as the third message.)

II. God's fourth message through Haggai: "Speak to Zerubbabel." (God's heart for discouraged leaders.)

- A. Haggai's fourth and final message covering a four-month span was to one person—Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah. Zerubbabel had helped lead the initial wave of Israelites back to the land to rebuild the temple, but had quit along with the rest of his countryman. He likely felt responsible for this and perhaps doubted himself as a leader. He may have felt disqualified.
- B. The specific message to Zerubbabel was two-fold: 1) God would judge foreign lands, and 2) make him like God's signet ring, which represented a special purpose of authority. The usage of "I will" or "I have" (used six or seven times) stresses the supreme importance of God's involvement as well as its certainty of completion.
- C. The prophetic implications of this passage are at least four-fold: 1) **personal**: This prophecy applied in some measure to Zerubbabel and likely inspired him and the rest of Israel to accomplish the rebuilding of the temple, which they did in five year's time. 2) **future (eschatological)**: history has demonstrated that this passage hasn't been fulfilled to the degree it implies, which suggests a fulfillment yet future. 3) **millennial**: this prophecy involving Zerubbabel will likely have a personal dimension of fulfillment in the millennium, which is a literal 1,000 year time of global restoration after Jesus returns. 4) **messianic**: the language of the prophecy emphasizes God's commitment to the lineage of David, which the Messiah would come from. There are overtures of messianic implications, meaning that Jesus is in view here as much as the man Zerubbabel.
- D. The personal application for us from this particular message shows God's heart to speak to one person among a whole nation of people and to restore leaders who feel like they have failed God.
 - 1. It's important to know that we serve a personal God who speaks to us on an individual level. It can feel like there are so many other people that God needs to worry about or that there are so many other important leaders that need to hear God. But God wants to remind you and I that He's both the God of the whole world and the whole church, but He's also the God of just you. He wants to develop a deep friendship by speaking to us about who He's called us to be. **(Think of the woman at the well, the nearly executed adulteress, Jesus' talk with Thomas or His interaction with Nathanael.)**
 - 2. It's important to know that we serve a God who values restoration. He does not simply discard those who don't fully comply with His directives. He works for years and decades with great patience to restore people to a place of deep spirituality, radiant faith and high calling. **(Think of Peter the apostle, David the king or Jonah the prophet.)**

III. Summarizing the applications of Haggai's message these past four weeks.

- 1. God address the main issues (He wasn't first) hindering His people from building what they'd returned for.
- 2. The people respond in obedience and God says, "I'm with you. Be strong and work hard knowing I'm really with you."
- 3. God speaks further to emphasize His mercy by saying, "I will bless you now despite who you are and what you've done."
- 4. God gives a powerfully motivating word to a leader who appears to have failed in his role.

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 27, 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.*