

Haggai 1:1-15 – Kingdom Priority

Quiz – What do you know about the book of Haggai?

(Watch Bible project – 5:36 min)

29th August 520 BC.

God reveals the problem

“The time has not yet come to rebuild YHWH’s house”.

Excuses

Ezra 3

Ezra 4:4-5. discouraged the people making them afraid to go on rebuilding, they bribed the officials and they frustrated the plans.

Haggai 1:4, the people built their own nice, panelled houses but they did nothing with YHWH’s house

The call to reassess

Haggai 1: 5 & 7

1:10 ... focussed on themselves and have failed to rebuild the house of YHWH

God had promised them something very different when they returned from exile.

Isaiah 61:4

Why is the temple rebuild failure so significant?

... a lack of trust in God’s covenant promises,

... a lack of obedience to what God commanded

... unconcerned about a place by which the people worshipped YHWH.

How do the people respond?

Haggai 1:12

They feared God AND they acted in obedience.

For us today

1) Nothing to do with a new building project**2) What Haggai reveals about us as followers of God today?**

... happy to stop obedience to the promises of God in the face of persecution

... happy to pursue their own comforts in the face of persecution.

... easy for us to push obedience to God and worship of God to the sidelines of our “busy lives”... then use excuses to justify it.

Questions:

How are you tempted to move God to the sidelines of your life

“What excuses are you using to do it?”

How do we pursue comfort in the face of persecution?

What part does obedience to God’s word play in your vision for your next 10 years of life?

3) What Haggai shows us about God

God does not give up on his people.

... faithful

... mercy towards them

... to enjoy his covenantal blessing properly

3 final questions

“What are our NEW covenant promises?”

What about the size of our crops?

What about blessing and discipline today?