

Titel: First things first
Pastoor: Jaco Coetzee
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Haggai 1:1-15

¹ In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: ² This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’s house.’” ³ Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” ⁵ Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” ⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸ Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured,” says the LORD. ⁹ “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.¹⁰ Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. ¹¹ I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.” ¹² Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. ¹³ Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: “I am with you,” declares the LORD. ¹⁴ So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, ¹⁵ on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

a) God’s priority ignored

Haggai 1:1-4

¹ In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: ² This is what the LORD Almighty says: **“These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’s house.’”** ³ Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ **“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”**

1. Danger of making excuses

Luk 14:16-24

¹⁶ Jesus said; “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’” ¹⁸ “But they **all alike began to make excuses**. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’” ¹⁹ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’” ²⁰ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’” ²¹ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the **owner of the house became angry** and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’” ²² ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is

still room.’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’²³ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.’²⁴ **I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.**”

b) God’s provision withheld

Haggai 1:5-6, 9-11

⁵ Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: **“Give careful thought to your ways.** ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it...⁹ “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. **“Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.**¹⁰ Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. ¹¹ **I called for a drought** on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labour of your hands.”

c) God’s pleasure revealed

Haggai 1:7-8

⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸ **Go up** into the mountains and bring down timber and **build my house**, so that **I may take pleasure in it** and be honoured,” says the LORD.

Ephes 4:16

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work.**

Psalms 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

d) God’s people responded

Haggai 1:12-15

¹² Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people **obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai**, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. ¹³ Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: **“I am with you,”** declares the LORD. ¹⁴ So the LORD **stirred up the spirit** of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. **They came and began to work on the house of the LORD** Almighty, their God, ¹⁵ on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

➤ in obedience to God’s message (v12)

¹²...the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him...

➤ by the help of God (v14a)

...¹⁴ So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel... and the spirit of Joshua...and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people

Phil 2:13

For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to will and to act for His good purpose.

➤ **to reflect the glory of God (v14b)**

... ^{14b} They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, ¹⁵ on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

Matt 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.