

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for March 13, 2016**

**Encouragement in Failure**  
**Haggai 2:10-19**

I. Israel's unclean worship (vv. 10-14)

*On the twenty-fourth of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Haggai the prophet, saying, (v. 10)*

-It has been a little over 2 months since Haggai's last message of encouragement

-It has been 3 months since they began to rebuild after the 16 year hiatus (536-520 BC)

*"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Ask now the priests for a ruling: (v. 11)*

-Priests were to instruct in matters of the Law (Deuteronomy 17:9-13)

-Leviticus 10:10-11

and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses.

*'If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?'" And the priests answered, "No." (v. 12)*

-This is the first scenario regarding holiness, consecration and cleanliness

-Leviticus 6:27

Anyone who touches its flesh will become consecrated; and when any of its blood splashes on a garment, in a holy place you shall wash what was splashed on.

*Then Haggai said, "If one who is unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will the latter become unclean?" And the priests answered, "It will become unclean." (v. 13)*

-This is the second scenario regarding uncleanliness and defilement

-The unclean is easily passed along as opposed to the clean

-Numbers 19:11

The one who touches the corpse of any person shall be unclean for seven days.

-Numbers 19:22

Furthermore, anything that the unclean person touches shall be unclean; and the person who touches it shall be unclean until evening.

*Then Haggai said, " 'So is this people. And so is this nation before Me,' declares the LORD, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean. (v. 14)*

-The Lord applies the previous unclean scenario to His people

-“this people” and “this nation” → Not positive references to God’s people

-God describes His people as unclean

-Additionally, the work and offerings of His people are unclean

-They are stuck in cycle of defilement

Proverbs 15:8

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Proverbs 21:27

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination, How much more when he brings it with evil intent!

Proverbs 28:9

He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

Isaiah 1:11-15

“What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?” Says the LORD. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle; And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats. When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts? Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies--I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them. So when you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood.”

## II. Israel’s unrepentant attitude (vv. 15-17)

*'But now, do consider from this day onward: before one stone was placed on another in the temple of the LORD, (v. 15)*

-“Consider” term used again (Haggai 1:5, 7)

-God called His people to remember the past before the temple of the Lord was rebuilt

*from that time when one came to a grain heap of twenty measures, there would be only ten; and when one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there would be only twenty. (v. 16)*

- God reminded His people of their past lack of grain and lack of wine
- Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce;  
So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

*'I smote you and every work of your hands with blasting wind, mildew and hail; yet you did not come back to Me,' declares the LORD. (v. 17)*

- It was God Himself who disciplined His people
  - Blasting wind=scorching wind drying out the crops
  - Mildew=extra moisture rendering crops worthless
  - Hail=impact destruction of crops

-The people did not return to God despite His attention-getting efforts (Haggai 1:5-6, 9-11)

- It took the direct ministry of Haggai to wake up God's people
- Amos 4:9

"I smote you with scorching wind and mildew; And the caterpillar was devouring Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.

### III. God's unchanging character (vv. 18-19)

*'Do consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month; from the day when the temple of the LORD was founded, consider: (v. 18)*

- God now called them to consider the past 3 months of rebuilding
- God called them to take inventory and recognize their current situation

*'Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree, it has not borne fruit. Yet from this day on I will bless you.' (v. 19)*

- The seed was not in the barn indicating hard times
- Vine, fig, pomegranate, and olive have not borne fruit also indicating a hard time
- Despite His people's uncleanness, God declares that He will bless them
- Zechariah 8:11-13

'But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,' declares the LORD of hosts. 'For there will be peace for the seed: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce and the heavens will give

their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things. 'It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.'

-Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

-Clearly, God has and will continue to remain faithful to His unclean people