

CHURCH ON THE RISE

Lesson Two • Haggai 2:1-9

The Best Is Yet to Come

Temple Timeline: Work Starts and Stops, Starts and Stops!

- 586 BC Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and burn down the Temple
- 538 BC Cyrus decrees Jews may return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple
- 537 BC Temple altar is completed and older Jews remember the “glory days” of old
- 536 BC Zerubbabel begins work on the Temple foundation
- 534 BC Work stops on the Temple due to discouragement/opposition and does not resume due to misplaced priorities.
- 522 BC Darius affirms the right of the returned remnant to rebuild the Temple
- 520 BC **29 August** Haggai’s first message to rise up and build!
21 September People begin to rebuild less than 4 weeks later!
17 October Haggai’s second message to get back to work less than 4 weeks later. *Same day as the climax of the Feast of Tabernacles and the dedication of Solomon’s Temple 454 years earlier!*

The Big Idea of Haggai’s Second Message

If we focus too much on the past, we may miss what God is doing in the present and forget that the best is **YET TO COME** in the future!

The Best Is Yet to Come When We...

1. RELEASE the Past. (2:1-3)

“Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?” (v. 3)

The Past Gets in the Way of the Present

- When we try to **LIVE** in the past rather than in the present.

- When we tend to **GLORIFY** the past as being better than it really was.

- When we fail to **LEARN** from past to make a better future.

2. RECOMMIT to the Present. (2:4-5)

“But now be strong...be strong...be strong...and work; for I am with you,” says the Lord of hosts. “...do not fear!” (vv. 4-5)
Three Clear Commands to Recommit

- Recommit to being **STRONG**.
- Recommit to doing the **WORK**.
- Recommit to not being **AFRAID**.

Three Convincing Reasons to Recommit

- God **PRESENCE** is with us as *the Almighty!*
- God’s **PROMISES** to us in *His Word!*
- God’s **POWER** is in us by *His Spirit!*

3. REFOCUS on the Future. (2:6-9)

“The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. (v. 9)

- The LORD Almighty will shake the nations to provide for the glory of His Temple.

- The LORD Almighty will keep His promise to fill His Temple with glory in stages.

The Best Is Yet to Come! Are You Ready to Rise Up and Build?

- What will you ***release*** from the past?
- What will you ***recommit*** to in the present?
- What will you ***refocus*** on in the future?

The LORD Almighty says to all of us this morning:
“WORK! For I am with you!”