

MASTER THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of Haggai

(Observe, Interpret, Apply & Go)

Armando Rodríguez

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

In our studies of the Bible, we will be using an inductive approach. This approach is a fun and exciting way to study the Bible! It's like being a detective. Instead of starting with a conclusion, you look at the details and clues in the text to discover the meaning for yourself.

Here's how you can do it:

1. **Observation:** First, you look closely at the Bible passage. You pay attention to:

- a. Who is in the story
- b. What is happening
- c. Where it is taking place
- d. When it is happening
- e. Why things are happening
- f. How they are happening.

You write down or make a mental note of all the details you notice.

2. **Interpretation:** Next, you try to understand what those details mean.

- a. You think about why the characters did what they did
- b. You think about what the important words and phrases mean.
- c. You may need to look up some words or ask questions to understand better.

3. **Application:** Finally, you think about how the story applies to our lives. What truth does it communicate?

- a. **What does it teach us about God?**
- b. What does it teach us about ourselves?
- c. What action (s) does it call us to take?

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 1

Summary of Chapter

In Haggai chapter 1, the prophet Haggai delivers a message from God to the people of Judah, urging them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. The chapter highlights the people's neglect of the Temple while they focus on their own homes. Haggai points out that their economic struggles and lack of success are a result of this neglect. God's message through Haggai emphasizes that prioritizing the rebuilding of the Temple will lead to blessings and prosperity. The chapter concludes with the people responding positively to Haggai's message and beginning the work on the Temple.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think the people of Judah focused on their own homes instead of rebuilding the Temple?
 2. How do you think the neglect of important responsibilities can affect other areas of life?
-

Outline

1. **Introduction and Context (Haggai 1:1-2)**
 - The historical context: the reign of King Darius
 - The people's focus on personal affairs rather than the Temple

Application Questions:

- How can we ensure that we prioritize important responsibilities in our lives?
- What are some ways to stay focused on our spiritual or communal goals?

2. **God's Message through Haggai (Haggai 1:3-6)**

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Haggai's message about the neglect of the Temple
- The consequences of neglect: dissatisfaction and lack of success

Application Questions:

- In what ways might we be experiencing dissatisfaction due to neglect of important tasks?
- How can we address and rectify areas of neglect in our lives?

3. Call to Action (Haggai 1:7-11)

- God's command to consider their ways and rebuild the Temple
- The promise of blessings if they obey

Application Questions:

- What specific actions can we take to respond to God's call in our own lives?
- How does the promise of blessings influence our motivation to follow through with responsibilities?

4. People's Response (Haggai 1:12-15)

- The people's positive response and initiation of the rebuilding work
- The encouragement from God through the prophet Haggai

Application Questions:

- What motivates us to take action after receiving guidance or instruction?
- How can we encourage others in our community to take positive steps in fulfilling responsibilities?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

Challenge students to memorize Haggai 1:8: "Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

the house, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the Lord. Test their memory by having them recite the verse at the next class.

2. **Role Playing Activity**

Divide students into groups and have them role-play the conversation between Haggai and the people of Judah. One group can act as Haggai delivering the message, while another acts as the people responding to the call to rebuild the Temple.

3. **Discussion Activity**

Facilitate a discussion on how modern-day individuals and communities can apply the message of Haggai chapter 1. Ask students to share examples of personal or community projects that are important but might be neglected, and discuss ways to address these issues.

Quiz

1. What is the main message of Haggai chapter 1? a) The importance of personal wealth
b) Rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem
c) Preparing for battle
d) Expanding personal homes
2. Why were the people of Judah experiencing dissatisfaction according to Haggai? a) They were not paying taxes
b) They neglected the Temple
c) They were at war
d) They were trading with other nations
3. What does God instruct the people to do in Haggai 1:8? a) Go up to the mountains and bring wood
b) Fast and pray
c) Build new homes
d) Travel to other lands

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. How does God describe the outcome of the people's neglect of the Temple? a) They will become wealthy
b) Their crops will flourish
c) They will experience lack and dissatisfaction
d) They will win battles
5. What was the response of the people to Haggai's message? a) They ignored it
b) They began to rebuild the Temple
c) They fled the city
d) They protested against Haggai
6. Who was the king during the time of Haggai's prophecy? a) King Solomon
b) King Nebuchadnezzar
c) King Darius
d) King Hezekiah
7. In Haggai 1:4, what does God say about the people's focus on their own homes? a) It is admirable
b) It is causing neglect of the Temple
c) It is leading to prosperity
d) It is not mentioned
8. What is the primary reason for rebuilding the Temple according to Haggai? a) To establish a royal palace
b) To glorify God and bring pleasure to Him
c) To attract traders
d) To prepare for a festival
9. What does Haggai say will happen if the Temple is rebuilt? a) The people will face new enemies
b) The nation will be destroyed
c) God will take pleasure and bless them
d) The city will be abandoned
10. What does God promise in response to the rebuilding of the Temple? a) Increased taxes
b) A new king

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- c) Blessings and prosperity
- d) Isolation from other nations

Answers:

1. b
 2. b
 3. a
 4. c
 5. b
 6. c
 7. b
 8. b
 9. c
 10. c
-

Fill in the Blank

1. The main focus of Haggai chapter 1 is the rebuilding of the _____.
2. According to Haggai, the people's neglect of the Temple led to _____ and dissatisfaction.
3. God commands the people to go up to the _____ and bring wood for the Temple.
4. Haggai's message emphasized that _____ would come if they obeyed God's command.
5. The people responded positively to Haggai's message and began the _____ of the Temple.

Answers:

1. Temple
2. lack
3. mountains

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. blessings
 5. rebuilding
-

Vocabulary Words

1. **Temple** - The central place of worship in ancient Jerusalem, considered the dwelling place of God. (Hebrew: מִקְדָּשׁ, Mikdash)
2. **Dissatisfaction** - A feeling of discontent or unhappiness. (Hebrew: אֲצַב, Atzav)
3. **Rebuild** - To construct again or repair something that has been damaged or destroyed. (Hebrew: בָּנָה, Banah)
4. **Neglect** - The failure to care for or give proper attention to something. (Hebrew: שָׁחַח, Shachach)
5. **Prosperity** - The state of being successful or having good fortune. (Hebrew: שְׁלוֹמִים, Shalom)

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 2

Summary of Chapter

In Haggai chapter 2, God continues to address the people of Judah through the prophet Haggai. The chapter begins with a message of encouragement to the people, who are feeling disheartened by the modest appearance of the newly rebuilt Temple compared to the former one. God reassures them that the glory of this new Temple will surpass the former, and He promises future blessings and peace. The chapter also includes a message to the priests about holiness and the importance of purity. The chapter concludes with a prophecy about the shaking of nations and the establishment of God's kingdom.

Opening Question

1. How can we find encouragement when we feel that our efforts or achievements seem insignificant compared to what was before?
 2. In what ways can we understand and experience God's promises of blessings and peace in our lives today?
-

Outline

1. **Encouragement for the Rebuilding (Haggai 2:1-5)**
 - God addresses the people who are discouraged by the new Temple's appearance.
 - God promises that the new Temple will be more glorious than the former one and assures His presence with them.

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How can we stay motivated and encouraged when our work doesn't seem to meet our expectations?
- What can we do to recognize and appreciate the significance of our contributions, even when they seem small?

2. **Promise of Future Glory and Peace (Haggai 2:6-9)**

- God promises to shake the heavens and the earth, bringing future glory to the Temple.
- God declares that peace will be given to His people.

Application Questions:

- How does the promise of future blessings impact your current efforts and challenges?
- In what ways can we foster a sense of peace and hope despite present difficulties?

3. **Message to the Priests (Haggai 2:10-14)**

- Haggai delivers a message about the importance of holiness and the consequences of defilement.
- God emphasizes the need for purity in worship and in daily life.

Application Questions:

- What steps can we take to ensure that our personal lives and practices reflect spiritual purity?
- How can we address and overcome areas of our lives where we might be struggling with defilement?

4. **Prophecy of Future Shaking and Kingdom Establishment (Haggai 2:15-23)**

- God speaks about shaking nations and the establishment of His kingdom.
- Haggai prophesies that God will make Zerubbabel a signet ring, symbolizing divine favor and authority.

Application Questions:

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- How can we prepare ourselves for changes and challenges that might come as part of God's plan?
 - What does the prophecy about Zerubbabel teach us about God's sovereignty and His plans for leaders?
-

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

Challenge students to memorize Haggai 2:9: "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house," declares the Lord Almighty. Test their memory by asking them to recite this verse during the next class.

2. Role Playing Activity

Divide students into groups and have them role-play the scene where Haggai delivers God's message about the future glory of the Temple. One group can act as Haggai delivering the message, while others can act as the people receiving the encouragement.

3. Discussion Activity

Facilitate a discussion on how we can see and experience the "glory" of our efforts and achievements, even when they might seem less impressive compared to past successes. Ask students to share personal stories or examples where they have seen God's promises fulfilled in their lives.

Quiz

1. What is the main message of Haggai chapter 2? a) The importance of personal wealth
b) The future glory of the rebuilt Temple
c) Preparing for a battle
d) Expanding the city

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. How does God reassure the people about the new Temple in Haggai 2:4? a) It will be less significant than the old one
b) It will be more glorious than the former one
c) It will be destroyed
d) It will be abandoned
3. What does God promise to bring to the new Temple in Haggai 2:7? a) Wealth and prosperity
b) Peace and divine glory
c) Destruction
d) New rulers
4. What is the message to the priests about holiness in Haggai 2:13? a) Holiness is not important
b) Defilement affects everything they do
c) They should focus on material wealth
d) They should ignore defilement
5. What does God promise to shake in Haggai 2:21? a) The earth and the heavens
b) The city walls
c) The leaders
d) The Temple
6. Who is mentioned as a signet ring in Haggai 2:23? a) Zerubbabel
b) Haggai
c) Joshua
d) Darius
7. How does God describe the future of the new Temple in Haggai 2:9? a) It will be destroyed
b) It will be glorious
c) It will be abandoned
d) It will be less glorious
8. What does the prophecy about Zerubbabel represent in Haggai 2:23? a) Divine favor and authority
b) A new king

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- c) A military leader
 - d) A prophet
9. How does God address the people's discouragement in Haggai 2:4? a) By promising immediate wealth
- b) By assuring His presence and future glory
 - c) By ignoring their concerns
 - d) By promising to remove their enemies
10. What does God declare about peace in Haggai 2:9? a) There will be no peace
- b) Peace will be given to the people
 - c) Peace will be taken away
 - d) Peace is not mentioned

Answers:

- 1. b
- 2. b
- 3. b
- 4. b
- 5. a
- 6. a
- 7. b
- 8. a
- 9. b
- 10. b

Fill in the Blank

1. In Haggai chapter 2, God promises that the new Temple will have greater _____ than the former one.

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

2. Haggai 2:7 mentions that God will shake the _____ and the _____.
3. The message to the priests in Haggai 2:13 is that defilement affects _____ they do.
4. Zerubbabel is prophesied to be like a _____ ring, symbolizing divine favor.
5. God promises to give _____ to His people in Haggai 2:9.

Answers:

1. glory
 2. heavens, earth
 3. everything
 4. signet
 5. peace
-

Vocabulary Words

1. **Glory** - The splendor, majesty, and divine presence associated with God and His works.
(Hebrew: כְּבוֹד, Kavod)
2. **Defilement** - The state of being contaminated or unclean, especially in a spiritual sense.
(Hebrew: טָמֵא, Tamei)
3. **Signet Ring** - A ring used to make an impression in wax, symbolizing authority and authenticity.
(Hebrew: חֹתָם, Chotam)
4. **Discouragement** - A loss of confidence or enthusiasm, often due to obstacles or setbacks.
(Hebrew: מֵרָעָה, Me'ra'ah)
5. **Peace** - A state of tranquility and harmony, free from conflict or disturbance. (Hebrew: שָׁלוֹם, Shalom)

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 3

Summary of Chapter

In Haggai chapter 3, the focus shifts to a new prophecy and a promise from God. The chapter begins with a message about the purification of the people and the need for them to be clean in their worship. God reassures them that their past sins will be forgiven and their future will be blessed. He also promises that He will establish a kingdom of peace and righteousness. This chapter highlights the importance of spiritual renewal and the role of repentance in experiencing God's blessings and fulfillment of His promises.

Opening Question

1. Why is spiritual purification important for experiencing God's blessings in our lives?
 2. How can we practice repentance and renewal in our daily lives to align ourselves with God's promises?
-

Outline

1. **Call to Purification (Haggai 3:1-3)**
 - God calls for the people to purify themselves in preparation for His blessings.
 - Emphasis is placed on cleansing their hearts and practices.

Application Questions:

- What are some practical ways we can ensure our hearts and actions are purified?
 - How does understanding the need for purification help us in our relationship with God?
2. **Promise of Forgiveness and Blessing (Haggai 3:4-6)**

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- God promises to forgive the sins of the people and to bless them abundantly.
- Assurance is given that their future will be prosperous.

Application Questions:

- How does knowing that our sins are forgiven impact our approach to future challenges?
- What can we do to remain mindful of and grateful for God's promises of blessing?

3. Establishment of God's Kingdom (Haggai 3:7-10)

- God foretells the establishment of His kingdom of peace and righteousness.
- The chapter concludes with a vision of a renewed and prosperous future under God's rule.

Application Questions:

- How can we contribute to building a sense of peace and righteousness in our community?
- What steps can we take to prepare ourselves for the fulfillment of God's kingdom on earth?

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge

Challenge students to memorize Haggai 3:6: "'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' declares the Sovereign Lord." Test their memory by having them recite the verse and discuss its significance in the next class.

2. Role Playing Activity

Have students role-play a scene where a prophet delivers God's message about purification and blessings to the people. One group can act as the prophet, while others can act as the audience receiving the message.

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. Discussion Activity

Facilitate a discussion on how the concepts of purification and repentance are relevant today.

Encourage students to share personal experiences or observations where they've seen the impact of these spiritual practices in their lives or communities.

Quiz

1. What does God call the people to do in Haggai 3:1-3? a) Build a new Temple
b) Purify themselves
c) Offer sacrifices
d) Leave the city
2. What does God promise in Haggai 3:4-6? a) To destroy their enemies
b) To forgive their sins and bless them
c) To increase their wealth
d) To remove their leaders
3. What future does God describe in Haggai 3:7-10? a) A future of conflict and war
b) A kingdom of peace and righteousness
c) A time of oppression
d) A period of abandonment
4. How should the people prepare themselves according to Haggai 3:1-3? a) By making offerings
b) By purifying their hearts and actions
c) By gathering resources
d) By expanding their territories
5. What is the significance of God's promise in Haggai 3:4-6 for the people's future? a) It guarantees material wealth
b) It assures forgiveness and abundant blessings
c) It foretells destruction
d) It predicts a loss of power

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

6. What role does purification play in experiencing God's blessings according to the chapter? a) It is a minor detail
b) It is essential for receiving God's blessings
c) It is optional
d) It is irrelevant
7. How does God describe His future kingdom in Haggai 3:7-10? a) As a place of great trials
b) As a land of peace and righteousness
c) As a land of conflict
d) As an abandoned place
8. What is the people's response to God's message in Haggai 3:1-3? a) They ignore it
b) They prepare themselves for purification
c) They rebel
d) They question its validity
9. What does God's promise of forgiveness imply for the people's relationship with Him? a) It indicates a distant relationship
b) It signifies restored and blessed relationship
c) It suggests indifference
d) It denotes a future of punishment
10. How does the chapter conclude regarding God's kingdom? a) With a vision of destruction
b) With a vision of renewal and prosperity
c) With a message of judgment
d) With a call to exile

Answers:

1. b
2. b
3. b
4. b
5. b

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

6. b
 7. b
 8. b
 9. b
 10. b
-

Fill in the Blank

1. In Haggai chapter 3, God calls the people to _____ themselves in preparation for His blessings.
2. God promises to _____ the sins of the people and bless them abundantly.
3. The chapter describes a future of peace and _____ under God's rule.
4. Spiritual _____ is essential for experiencing God's blessings.
5. The promise of a renewed kingdom signifies _____ and prosperity.

Answers:

1. purify
 2. forgive
 3. righteousness
 4. purification
 5. renewal
-

Vocabulary Words

1. **Purification** - The process of making something clean or free from sin or impurities. (Hebrew: טָהוֹר, Tahor)
2. **Forgiveness** - The act of pardoning someone for their mistakes or sins. (Hebrew: סְלִיחָה, Sliḥah)

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. **Righteousness** - The quality of being morally right or justifiable. (Hebrew: צֶדֶק, Tzedek)
4. **Blessing** - A prayer or expression of good wishes; also, a divine favor or gift. (Hebrew: בְּרָכָה, Berakhah)
5. **Kingdom** - The domain over which a king or queen rules, or in this context, God's reign and rule. (Hebrew: מַלְכוּת, Malkhut)