

# Haggai

Pressures, demands, expectations and tasks assault us in our lives every day.

Do this! Be there! Finish that! Call them! It seems that everyone wants something from us.

As a result, we rush through life doing what we see as necessary, the immediate and the urgent.

**But our real problem is not** the volume of the demands on us or lack of organisation, but **values, what is really important to us.**

**Our values and priorities are reflected in how we use our time, our resources such as money, strength and talent.**

**As a Christian we may say that the Creator God is number one in our lives, yet we relegate Him to a lesser priority in our “to do” list.**

Haggai knew what was important to those who had returned from exile in Babylon, by a decree of Cyrus allowing them to return to Jerusalem.

The Temple had been destroyed in 586BC along with the defensive walls of Jerusalem. Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem in 538BC with the specific task of rebuilding the city walls and the Temple.

Work began but was not completed, because the people had forgotten their purpose for returning to Jerusalem and lost their priorities in the face of opposition, [Ezra 4:4-5].

**Haggai was calling the people back to God’s values, [Haggai 1:4].**

**The people were more concerned for their own needs and comforts than with God’s will, as a result they suffered.**

**Haggai 1:7-8** [New King James] *“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,’ says the LORD.”*

This is why they had been allowed to return to Jerusalem, after the Creator God had influenced Cyrus.

**Haggai 1:9-11** [New King James] *“‘You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labour of your hands.’”*

**The Creator God disciplined the people as a loving father does the son he loves, [Hebrews 12:4-11].**

**Haggai 1:12** [New King James] *“Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the LORD.”*

**The Creator God reminded the people the claim He had over their lives and they reset their priorities, out of awe and respect for the Creator God, [1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Acts 20:28].**

**The major problem with humans is the lack of this awe and respect [fear] of the Creator God, [Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10]. This is why leaders, both secular and religious, along with the people they influence lack Godly Wisdom to make the right decisions.**

**As you read and meditate on the God-inspired words of Haggai, respond to them and reorder your priorities in accordance with God's will.**

To help you reorder your priorities please download the following articles on this website under main heading '*Human Nature*': '*God's Purpose For Every Human Being*' and '*A Life That Has Left God Out Of Its Reckoning*'. You will be eternally grateful that you made such a decision to reorder the priorities in your life.