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Haggai 03

Judah came out of 70 years of captivity from the land of Babylon. They came back by the order of King Cyrus but because of the opposition they stopped the building the temple for 16 years. When God spoke through the prophet Haggai they rekindled in their spirit and started the rebuilding.

Chapter 2:10-19

I will bless you! From this day Forward!!

**Date: Ninth month, twenty-fourth day: 18th December
520BC**

God wants to bless the people, but He wants them to go through the process. As we can see from this passage the pattern.

- **Confession**
- **Living Holy**
- **Self-Examination**

The people expected that the moment that they obeyed God and they started rebuilding the temple, that God would begin to bless them. God would bring the rain and bring the harvest once more. But that had not happened. The blessing was not coming.

You may be here in the same state today, and you might be in the deepest agony, the deepest pain that your heart physically, mentally, spiritually and you feel that you have done everything before God and that you can't do any more, yet God isn't answering!

Zechariah 3:1-5, *Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was **clothed with filthy garments**, and was standing before the Angel. ⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "**See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.**" ⁵ And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.*

Now Joshua, the High Priest, was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And the angel said, take away the filthy garments from him.



And as the prophet sees, from a vision of God, Joshua standing there, he sees Satan beside him and Satan is laughing, because from head to foot Joshua is standing in filthy clothes.

V 10-14, *On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ¹¹“Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Now, ask the priests concerning the law, saying, ¹²“If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew,*

wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?" ' " Then the priests answered and said, "No." ¹³ And Haggai said, "If one who is unclean because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?" So the priests answered and said, "It shall be unclean." ¹⁴ Then Haggai answered and said, " 'So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,' says the Lord, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.

There are two questions in this section:

The first question.

When the Holy things of God touches the furniture, or any other garment will the furniture or garment will become holy?

Leviticus 6:27, *Everyone who touches its flesh must be holy. And when its blood is sprinkled on any garment, you shall wash that on which it was sprinkled, in a holy place.*

The garment that the priest wore, that the holy flesh within, became holy. But that did not mean that everything that came into contact with this holy flesh became holy of itself.

If it touched other food or furniture in the temple or in the tabernacle, did that mean that that holiness was

transferred from the holy flesh into whatever was defiled?

The priests answer was NO.

The second question:

This question is about ritual defilement. Can moral uncleanness be transferred and defile something that is holy?

To put it to you simply, if you are or something unholy, comes into contact with something that is awesomely holy, can it defile that thing?

The answer, is YES!

Now let's look at a bit of background, it's important that we understand this fully.

About dead body in the Old Testament law.

Numbers 19:13, *Whoever touches the body of anyone who has died, and does not purify himself, defiles the tabernacle of the Lord. That person shall be cut off from Israel. He shall be unclean, because the water of purification was not sprinkled on him; his uncleanness is still on him.*

Why did God say this?

There are so many obscure rules and principles that are in the Old Testament, especially the first five books of the Bible they seem unreasonable. It is hard for us to make them understandable.

Why these people were not allowed to touch certain things, or eat of certain things?

Leviticus 10:10-11, *that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean,¹¹ and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses."*

God telling us why He gave all these rules to the children of Israel about not touching this and being allowed to touch other things.

Why are they not allowed to eat certain things?
Why were they not allowed to touch certain things?

Because God was trying to teach them in a spiritual sense, not a physical sense, that there are certain things in this world that are clean and unclean.

The two questions that Haggai asked the priests!

- The holiness cannot be transferred.

- The filthiness is always transferred but holiness cannot be transferred.

Illustration:

You could be the fittest person on this world, you could be so healthy, everything could be going your way, but you cannot transfer your health to anyone!

If you have a cold, or flu or a virus, then anyone, who comes within a radius of you is in danger of catching it.

Same way health cannot be transferred, germs and disease are transferred.

Holiness can't be transferred, but the disease of sin, iniquity and transgression is always transferred.

So, what was the message of God through Haggai?

There is sin in their heart and its being transferred to work of God.

Psalms 24:3-4, *Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.*

What is the message of the Spirit of God to us today?

Holy things cannot make you holy! And the priest was in his holy garments, he was carrying the holy flesh and that holy flesh was an offering to God. The best offering that could be given yet if it touches anything else it couldn't be made holy.

- Carrying our Bible doesn't make us holy,
- Wearing a head covering doesn't make your heart holy,
- Wearing cross around your neck doesn't make you holy,
- Putting a fish sticker on your car bumper doesn't make you holy,
- Praying to God doesn't make us holy,
- Giving alms doesn't make us holy
- Going to church does not make us holy,

But unclean things make us unholy.

When we touch what is unclean, when we touch what is defiled, it comes into our very souls, into our very hearts, it defiles us!

No matter how long you have been saved, no matter what we do for God, or say for God, or know about God - if we have defilement, if we have sin in our lives and filthiness somewhere within us, it defiles everything else that we are doing for God!

What the Christian should do?

2 Corinthians 6:14-18, *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." ¹⁷Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." ¹⁸"I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."*

The children of Judah, and they were walking around the scaffolding of this temple building, but their hands work is not blessed, why?

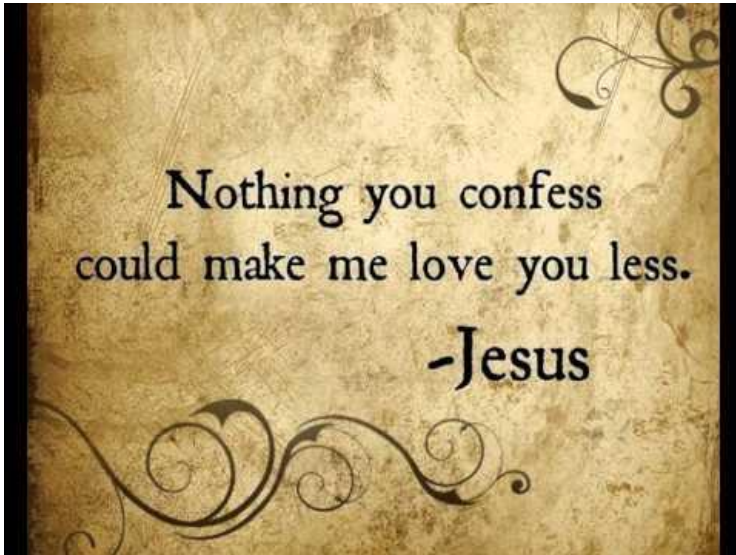
We have heard the word of the Lord, stirred, and now obeying but our work isn't blessed why?

Why isn't God's blessing coming down?

Haggai says: ***First confess your sins.***

What is the time lapse in my life between me sinning and then confessing my sin?

This will show your spiritual temperature.



Judeans were living with their sin, but they were obeying the Lord in many ways, following His path and they were doing what He told them.

Do we deceive ourselves?

We can do rational and lot of things in our minds to legitimise our sin, to tell ourselves that it is alright to do it.

We can make all these excuses within ourselves, but at the end of the day God says that it is only obedience that He will bless!

As the children of God, if only we can see the seriousness of our awful sinfulness then should not be quiet. We will never bury it! We will never turn our back on it!

How can you see the seriousness of your sin?

Numbers 5:2-3, *“Command the children of Israel that they put out of the camp every leper, everyone who has a discharge, and whoever becomes defiled by a corpse. ³You shall put out both male and female; you shall put them outside the camp, that they may not defile their **camps in the midst of which I dwell.**”*

To be unclean meant a break, a severing, a divorce of fellowship between the child of God and his God.

Separation!

Sin is very serious!

Hebrews 13:11-12, *For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹²Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.*

Do you see how serious it is?

That our Lord Jesus Christ, like that beast, had to be despised, and He had to be put out of the camp.

He had to be rejected of

- His friends,
- His family,
- His kindred, and
- His nation,

He had to be separated because of all our sins.

So, Haggai said, confess your sins.

Exodus 19:6, *And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”*

God blesses and moves through holy men and women and the gospel moves, when their holy life that reflects the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dead men, dead Christians, and dead preachers give out dead messages!

In the Old Testament, the high priest wore a little plate of jewels in which it written as 'Holiness to the Lord'!

1 Peter 2:5, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a **holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; **therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

Are you the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Are you blessed with holiness of God?

Do you know what it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

- To flee from iniquity!
- To not touch that thing which is unclean!!
- To be holy in your life!!!

V 15 - 18, And now, carefully consider from this day forward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the Lord— ¹⁶since those days, when one came to a heap of twenty ephahs, there were but ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw out fifty baths from the press, there were but twenty. ¹⁷I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labours of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me,' says the Lord. ¹⁸'Consider now from this day forward, from the

twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid—consider it:

God spoke through prophet Haggai just not to confess their sin, not just to be holy, but he tells them that they need to examine themselves.

Remember in the last lesson, three times God spoke, 'consider your ways'

For sixteen years no blessing came, no rain came, no harvest came because they have not obeyed the voice of God. Year after year they came to harvest the wheat, and they were expecting 20 measures but they only got 10, 50% loss.

They came back again looking for the wine vats, they looked for 50 vessels and they only got 20, its only 40%.

V 19, *Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you.' "*

- They had heard the word of God,
- They had prayed about the word of God,
- They had taken the encouragement,
- They had started acting on the word of God

Yet, Judah, if there is sin in your life there will be no seed in the barn.

Do you want to be a fruitful Christian?

Do you want to be a Christian with joy in every step, with blessing in your soul, heart and in your life?

If you are, then you must confess and flee from your sin.

And Haggai, at the end of this message, after asking 'What's the harvest like?', he says this: 'From this day I will bless you'.

- The first message they have heard was on the 21st of September 520BC they were stirred about it.
- The second message came 17th October 520 B.C., they began to work on the temple.
- This third message was given on the 18th of December 520BC, there was a turning point in the Judeans life.

They realised it's not enough to be,

- stirred by the word of God,
- talk about the word of God and
- bless by the word of God,
- obey the word of God

if they haven't got out of their sin in their lives.

When they confessed their sin, God cleansed them. Then God gives them the promise that 'From this moment in time I will start to bless you!'.

We need to realise that there is blessing that comes down from God for the child of God when they forsake their sin!

Conclusion:

Where are you in your life?

- You have heard the word of God,
- You have prayed about the word of God,
- You have taken the encouragement,
- You have started acting on the word of God

Yet if you have any known sin then you may not enjoy the sweet presence of the Lord and His joy in your life!

I want to leave this quote from John Wesley!

'Give me a hundred men that fear nothing but God and sin, and I'll turn the world upside-down'.

What does God say to our hearts today?

Haggai 04

Chosen by God

Haggai 2:20-23

Ninth month, twenty-fourth day 18th December 520BC

V-20, And again the word of the Lord came to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying,

On the same day God gave them the second message and the fourth and final message by Haggai.

This message preached to Zerubbabel, who was the governor of Judah.

Zerubbabel was the civil, political leader within the nation. Zerubbabel needed encouragement, he needed special encouragement from the Lord.

Zerubbabel was so discouraged, he was so downhearted as many of the leaders within the work of God. Anytime the enemy wants to attack first he attacks the leader.

Do you pray for your spiritual leader?

I thank God for so many faithful sisters and brothers who earnestly pray for me. There are many people who fast

and pray for me every Saturday! I am who I am because of the faithful prayers of many saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:25, *Brethren, pray for us.*

We don't know what the circumstances for Zerubbabel, maybe he saw that he was going to bring all the changes for the people who came from captivity. So, he might have been discouraged, drained and all the nations and the empires, the Medo-Persian Empire, the great nations that were built like a wall around Judah.

Perhaps he was beginning to despair and feared for the future remnant of the Jews.

What was going to happen to them?

They had been downtrodden for 70 years in Babylon, they have been freed to come back to their homeland, they were given permission to build the temple. First, they were discouraged by the Samaritans, it was put off for 16 years.

Then they were given permission again, but they were so down, and all problems had knocked them out so much that they could not even lift their finger for the temple of God.

Zerubbabel's standing there, the head of this people, looking around at them, and at those that are pressing against them. He looks to heaven, and perhaps he despairs at the circumstances around him!

Circumstances have the tendency to discourage people. You don't know where to turn to, those that are nearest and dearest to you, like those for Zerubbabel.

Your enemies are against you, everything is against you!

God gave Zerubbabel in His fourth message, you need to be encouraged!

God came beside Zerubbabel and He brought this great message to encourage the governor's faith by the faith of God!

Because unbelief always stops and robs us of God's blessing. If Zerubbabel was to be blessed he had to be encouraged to get out of unbelief. It was no good battering him with a rod and telling him to believe, he had to be encouraged to believe!

The Lord Jesus Christ hated unbelief.

Do you remember the occasion of Jairus' daughter?

Jairus, wanting his daughter to be healed. He knew that she was dying, and he came to the Lord Jesus. Lord Jesus

Christ went to heal on His way the woman with the issue of blood interrupted. In the meanwhile, the little girl passed away. Someone came up to him and tapped him on the shoulder and said, *'Trouble the Master no more, the girl is dead'*.

And the Lord went with that man to that house, and they walked in and the Lord Jesus Christ, who is, and was, and always shall be the author of life stood and said: *'She is sleeping'*.

What did they do?

They were standing around and they were laughing, they were scorning Him, *'Who does He think He is? Saying that that little child is [sleeping] - does He not know what a dead body is?'*

What did He do?

He put them out!

Why?

Because Christ puts out unbelief!

Has the Lord Jesus Christ put out unbelief in your life?

Do you know what discourages me more than anything?

My dear brothers and sisters, today, whatever you're going through, whatever you feel your deficiency is in Christ. You have access to the unlimited wealth that we have in the Lord Jesus!

We have everything, for we have Christ.

This was Haggai's message to Zerubbabel, '***Have faith in your God!***'.

V 21, *"Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth.*

God will shake the earth. What was Zerubbabel worried about? He was worried about his enemies, he was worried about everything going wrong again.

God was encouraging Zerubbabel, '***Don't be afraid, one of these days I'm going to bring an earthquake on the earth***' God spoke of divine judgement that was ordained of God that one day will come and will be poured on all the nations, and they will suffer V 22.

V 22, *I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Everyone by the sword of his brother.*

God's going to shake the earth in a way that He has never ever done before, and God help anyone who's left down here to face it!

Do you know what that tells us?

Sin either ends up on the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary, or you end up pay for it in hell.

Third message that was given by Haggai was that God had provided a servant, the servant of Jehovah.

V 23, *'In that day,' says the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,' says the Lord, 'and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,' says the Lord of hosts.'*

It says, *'that day'*.

Now what the Holy Spirit is speaking of here is a future day, God is telling them of a time to come!

A day when Christ would reign with His royal authority upon the earth.

Now the question is this: why does God address Zerubbabel?

Does God refer to Zerubbabel, if it's got nothing to do specifically with Zerubbabel, because he would have died before any of this would have come to pass?

So how could God be saying to Zerubbabel *'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,' says the Lord, 'and will make you like a signet ring;*

Now we need to understand this, and it is important as well.

Throughout this whole book, the message came to Zerubbabel!

V 1:1, *the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah,*

What was the title in which he called?

'Governor of Judah'.

V 1:14, *So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah,*

V 2:2, *"Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah,*

V 2:21, *"Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying:*

Until this verse Zerubbabel was addressed as Governor of Judah.

V 2:23, *'In that day,' says the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,'*

But in this verse, there is different title used, as 'My servant'

When you look throughout the Old Testament you find this, God says 'My servant David'

And then God says, 'My servant Israel', not the person but the nation, 'My servant Israel'.

Isaiah 52:13-15, *Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. ¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; ¹⁵ So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.*

Anyone called as the servant of God in the word of God is a type, is a picture, of the Messiah of God.

The Christ of God is the servant of God, look at the whole book of Isaiah! The suffering servant, the suffering Christ our Saviour and Lord!

'Zerubbabel my servant'. You might think that's a bit far-fetched, are you trying to say that the Lord is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ?

Matthew 1:12-13, *And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.*¹³ *Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.*

What the Spirit of God giving the message is that it's not a personal fulfilment by Zerubbabel, but a positional fulfilment in his lineage.

Zerubbabel was the son of David, not a direct son but he was in the line of David. We all know that Messiah came in the line of David. Therefore, Messiah came in the line of Zerubbabel.

In effect what God is proclaiming is that, 'Look O Judah! One day I am going to bring out of Zerubbabel's loins, the Lord Jesus Christ, Messiah, the Son of God, the Deliverer, and My suffering Servant!'

Hallelujah!

Conclusion

V 23, 'and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,' says the Lord of hosts.'

It's a signet ring!



When we look into the Old Testament we will find that it was used in three ways.

1. Personal signature
2. Royal authority as a sealed document
3. Fulfilment of future promise

The signet always represented the owner or possessor. God saying: 'I'm going to make you Zerubbabel' - not 'you' Zerubbabel, but your seed, 'My servant's going to be My signet! He's going to be My personal stamp, the express image of My person, He's going to seal everything I say everything in Him is Yea and Amen'!

Hallelujah!

Princes would sign their order and stamp it, grant commissions with their signet but Christ, the Son of God, in His own indelible ink of His own blood signed the great charter of eternal salvation and the Gospel!

Christ saved us! Praise His holy name.

God says: 'I have chosen you'.

Lord of Host or Lord of Armies or Lord of Warriors, which translated from the Hebrew word '**Jehovah Tsaba**' this is mentioned 14 times in 12 of these 38 verses.

God is a warrior that will fight for you!

God will deliver you,

God will save you.

When you give your all to Christ, He will give all that He has to you.

Will YOU??