

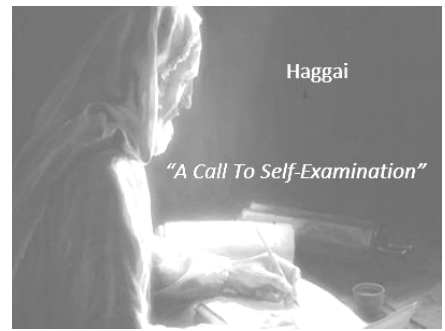
THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

"Theology of Glory vs. Theology of the Cross"

Pastor David Nehrenz

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

Date: 3-13-16 Lesson: 4



A. THE TEXT (Haggai 2:10-19)

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**,

(11) "**Thus says the Lord of hosts: Ask the priests about the law: (12) 'If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become **holy**?'"**

The priests answered and said, "No."

(13) Then Haggai said, "If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?"

The priests answered and said, "It does become unclean."

(14) Then Haggai answered and said, "So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, **declares the Lord**, and so with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is unclean.

(15) Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in **the temple of the Lord**, (16) how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty. (17) **I struck you** and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to **me, declares the Lord**.

(18) Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that **the foundation of the Lord's temple** was laid, consider:

(19) Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. **But from this day on I will bless you.**"

B. THE STUDY NOTES

1. Dec. 18, 520 B.C. was the 24th day of the 9th month – in winter when crops were planted.
2. Priests were always consulted to explain the details about the Law (Dt 17:8-13; Jer 18:18; Mal 2:7-9).
3. Meat that was consecrated was set apart for sacrifices and thus became "holy," and since it touched one's garments when it was carried, it then made the garments also "holy." But you could not then pass this holiness onto other objects. (Lev 6:27; Ezek 46:20)
4. When one is unclean, then everything one touches becomes unclean (Nu 19:11-13,22)
5. Whatever an unclean people do is also unclean and defiled. Yes, God's people were back in the holy land, but that in itself did not make them holy and clean. Only through true faith and obedience and rebuilding the temple could they themselves become clean and holy.

6. The stones were laid upon another on the 24th day of the 6th month. The heap and measure of grain was not 20 measures, only 10 measures. The poor harvests happened because the people sinned in disobedience (Is 5:10). The wine vat had only 20 measures instead of 50, also because of their sins (Is 16:10).
7. When blight and mildew came upon their crops, it was a curse for their disobedience (Dt 28:22; 1 Ki 8:37; Am 4:9). Also hail brought God's judgment (Ex 9:25; Ps 78:47,48).
8. The foundation of the temple was laid in 536 B.C. (Ez 3:11). They were to give careful thought about obeying from now on and into the future.
9. The vines, figs, pomegranates would ripen in August/September and the olives from September to November. The harvests had been small because of past disobedience. But now God will bless them as they respond with obedience to the preaching of Haggai (Ps 128:1-6; Joel 2:14; Mal 3:10)
10. The New Testament connections to disobedience/obedience; unclean/clean; defiled/holy: (Mt 23:16-28; Mk 7:17-23; Lk 11:37-42; Jn 13:8-17; 15:1-7; Rom 14:17-23; Heb 10:19-22)

C. THE MEANING FOR US

1. The Theology of glory: The people were fine being back in Jerusalem, building their homes and giving up the building of the temple, God is good! – except they did not want to face the opposition of the pagan people. They feared them more than obeying the Lord and doing as he commanded them.

2. The Theology of the cross: The reason God brought them back to Jerusalem was to rebuild the temple so the Passover lamb and the feasts could be offered again. Despite the opposition of the pagans, they will obey God and bear the cross and walk by faith and at all cost rebuild the temple for the Lord – the Passover Lamb!

3. How is that we are unclean and defiled?
4. How do we become clean and holy?
5. When that happens, in what ways will that be evidenced in our lives?

D. LUTHER on the Book of Haggai: Vol. 18, Page 383

“The prophet exhorts them not only as people who are afraid but also as the weary. The first temptation [to be afraid] commonly occurs when we are enthusiastic about divine matters and the things which the Word of God commanded, because Satan does not cease besetting us with various adversities. Then, when he sees that that hope is failing him and that he can establish nothing at the left hand, he turns to the right hand to call us away from the works of God with an ignoble laziness and lack of concern.

You see, it is with a sort of smugness that he attacks us when we are not careful and cautious enough. Surely this is not a minimal temptation. In fact, it demands a greater warning than when we are openly evil. This entire discourse, then, addresses itself against the smugness of the people. For this purpose the prophet goes into the question of holy flesh, as the text says, in which question the prophet rebukes their negligence and carelessness and sets up penalties. God wants us to press on with what we have begun that our work may come to a boil. If this does not happen, if we do not energetically perform our job in a matter which God has commanded us, this displeases God, no matter how good the work may otherwise be.”