

Union Lake Baptist Church  
Sunday School



*The Frieze of the Prophets (East Wall of Boston Public Library), by John Singer Sargent, circa 1895*

# The Book of Haggai

Reading Schedule & Discussion Question  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Part 1 – 4 Weeks)



## **WEEK 1**— Prepare for Discussion on Sunday, November 25, 2018

### *Read Haggai 1:1-15*

1. Read King Cyrus' decree in Ezra 1:1-4. Summarize in a sentence or two what Cyrus ordered.
2. Return to Haggai 1. What are some words or ideas you see repeated in the text? Note the verses in which they occur.
3. Contrast what we know from the text about the Lord's house and the Israelites' houses. What is important about these differences?
4. Are the people experiencing prosperity? Explain your answer from the text.

## WEEK 1—Continued

5. In our passage, what are the people commanded to do?
6. What was the people's response?
7. In v13, the Lord says, "I am with you." Where have you seen this encouragement before (i.e. in other Bible passages)?

**NOTES:**

**NOTES:**

## **WEEK 2** - Prepare for Discussion on Sunday, December 2, 2018

*Read Haggai 2:1-9*

1. How much time has transpired from when the people resumed working on the temple (see 1:14-15) and the beginning of Chapter 2?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Did Haggai speak to the same people in 2:1 as he did in 1:1? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Re-read v3. This conversation took place October 27, 520BC.
  - a. How could it be possible that any of the people Haggai was addressing had seen the former temple?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What was the temptation such people had? Explain your answer using the text.





**NOTES:**

**NOTES:**

## **WEEK 3** - Prepare for Discussion on Sunday, December 9, 2018

*Read Haggai 2:10-19*

1. How has Haggai's audience in our text changed compared to 1:1 and 2:1?
2. What would the priests certainly know about the law (given their responsibilities)?
3. In the Book of Leviticus, a portion of some of the sacrifices offered at the temple was to be given to the priests to eat. See Leviticus 6:24-26 for an example. That passage explains that the priest's portion of the meat is holy, they were to eat it in a holy place, and only the priests themselves (i.e., holy men) were to eat it.
  - a. Knowing this, does the priest in v11 of our text answer correctly?
  - b. How would the state of Jerusalem at that time make it difficult for the priests to follow Leviticus 6:24-26?



**NOTES:**

**NOTES:**

**WEEK 4**— Prepare for Discussion on Sunday, December 11, 2018

Read Haggai 2:20-23

1. Once again we have a change in audience. Explain
  - a. Where have we seen this language before?
  - b. How do vv22-23 help us to understand the metaphor of v21?
  - c. Go back and read Ezra 4:1-5, 23-24. How would God's prediction in v22 of our text have impacted those who had experienced the opposition in Ezra 4?
2. What does the Lord promise to do in v21?
  - a. Where have we seen this language before?
  - b. How do vv22-23 help us to understand the metaphor of v21?
  - c. Go back and read Ezra 4:1-5, 23-24. How would God's prediction in v22 of our text have impacted those who had experienced the opposition in Ezra 4?

## Week 4 (Continued)

3. In v23, Zerubbabel's father is again identified. Compare 1:1, 12; 2:2, etc. What importance could Zerubbabel's lineage have? Read Matthew 1:1-16 and note any important connections.
  
4. From v23, the Lord promises to use Zerubbabel in a significant way. Has Zerubbabel earned this appointment? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Also in v23, the Lord says he will "make [Zerubbabel] like a signet ring."
  - a. How was a signet ring used in Genesis 41:37-45, Esther 8:1-14, and Daniel 6:16-18?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How does the way a signet ring was used in those passages help you understand v23?



**NOTES:**

**NOTES:**