**Sermon**  **Haggai**- **First Things First** July 15, 2018n – Trav Neumann

OT Groupings 5-12-5-5-12-5

5 Law- 12 History -5 Wisdom-5 Major Prophets- 12Minor Prophets (all in the history group)

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| 606 | Babylon established military presence - 1st Exile |
| 597 | 2nd exile |
| 586 | 3rd exile and destroyed city and temple |
| 70 yrs | 70 years in Babylon as Jeremiah prophesized (606-536) |
| 538 | Babylon conquered by Persians; Cyrus issued a decree for Jews to return to Jerusalem. |
| 536-532 | Work in the temple begins |
| 16 yrs | Work on temple stops for 16 years! |
| 🡪 | **Haggai prophesizes to the returned exiles** |
| 516 | Temple completed |

This is what we see in Ezra: **EZRA 1:1- 5; v2:1** 🡪 **v64**; **3:8, 10-11**; **4:4-5 🡪 v24; 5:1-2**

Haggai’s message: First things first. He gives 3 reasons WHY:

**POINT 1: Do it for God’s glory.**

**Haggai 1:1-8** **1 Cor 10:31** **Col 3:17** **Col 3:23**

**1:12-14**

Haggai: *Giving ourselves to the work of God should be the priority and passion of our life because when we do, God is made much of and God is glorified.*

**POINT 2: Do it because of God’s presence.**

**2:1-5** God in their midst stirred them 🡪  **1:13-14**

Haggai: *Giving ourselves to the work of God should be the priority and passion of our life because God says: ‘For I am with you!’.*

**POINT 3: Do it for God’s blessing.**

**2:10-14**  …… **2:6-9** ……..

*Haggai: Giving ourselves work of God should be the priority and passion of our life because when we do, God blesses our work.*

**2:20-23**

Matt 1:12-16 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,[ and Shealtiel the father of **Zerubbabel… 10 generations later “…** and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, **of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ”.**

**POINT 1** **Do it for God’s glory.**

Q1:

If an objective observer were to look at your last 3 months of your checking acct and calendar, what conclusion would they draw and your passions and priorities? What did your money and time get spent on?

Q2:

Is there something in my life or in my lifestyle keeping God’s work from being my top priority?

If so, what is it? Why? Talk with someone close about it, get their perspective.

**Point 2: Do it because of God’s presence.**

What ways have you experienced God’s ‘stirring’ presence that motivated you to God’s priorities and work?

What things cause you to doubt God’s presence?   
Perhaps meditate this week on these passages:

* 1. Heb 13:5
  2. Matt 28:20
  3. Ps 73:23
  4. Ps 46:1
  5. Ps 34:18
  6. Ps 23:4
  7. 1 Pet 5:7
  8. Matt 11:28-29

**Point 3: Do it for God’s blessing.**

Reflect on point 1 & 2 with these in mind:

Matt 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Ps 35:27 Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, “Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!”

Matt 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.