



THE MESSAGES OF HAGGAI "The Message of Instruction" Haggai 2:10-19

No. 3995

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Nice buildings are no guarantee of worshipping communities. Holy temples do not create holy people. So while the important work of rebuilding the temple progressed, the Lord instructed Haggai to ask the priests to instruct the people on issues of practical, holy living.

I. Instruction by the Priests. v. 11

- A. The importance of the Covenant of Israel. Exodus 19:4-6
 - 1. Treasured possession.
 - 2. Kingdom of priests.
 - 3. Holy Nation.
- B. The significance of the Law (Torah) for Israel.
 - 1. Being a holy people required unique, distinctive living.
 - 2. The Law outlined the details of distinctiveness. See Exodus 20:1-17
- C. The role of the priests in Israel. See Leviticus 10:1-11
 - 1. Distinguishing between holy and profane, clean and unclean.
 - 2. Teaching people the laws that outlined the differences.

II. Instruction of the People. vv. 12-14

- A. Is holiness contagious? v. 12
 - 1. Holiness is an issue for God's people because God is holy. Leviticus 19:2
 - 2. Holiness is a uniquely divine characteristic. Only God is intrinsically holy.
 - a. Exalted in transcendence.
 - b. Awesome in power.
 - c. Glorious in appearance.
 - d. Pure in character.
 - 3. Holiness is dependent on relationship with the Holy One.
 - 4. Holiness was demonstrated to Israel by symbol and ritual leading to reality.
 - 5. Holiness is not mechanically conveyed by contact with holy things.
- B. Is defilement contagious? v. 13
 - 1. Ritual uncleanness conveyed by contact with the unclean.
 - 2. Ritual uncleanness barred from the presence of the Holy.
 - 3. Ritual uncleanness required ceremonial cleansing to approach the Holy.
 - 4. Ritual uncleanness designed to teach the need for spiritual cleansing. Psalm 24:4

III. Instruction Concerning the Promises. v. 19

- A. If you stop confusing the work of the Lord with the Lord of the work...
- B. If you differentiate clearly between ritual and reality, symbol and substance...
- C. If you gladly obey my Word...
- D. You will enjoy the blessings of the covenant.