



*Places of worship are a problem. And the problem does not seem to be architectural. Grand Gothic cathedrals that dominate a city don't ensure that the worship of God dominates that city. Unpainted, ramshackle, clapboard sheds perched precariously on the edge of a prairie don't guarantee a congregation of humble saints in denim.*



*As we look over the centuries of the many and various building projects in God's Name – wilderness tabernacle, revival tent, Gothic cathedral, wayside chapel, synagogue, temple, meetinghouse, storefront mission, the catacombs – there doesn't seem to be any connection between the buildings themselves and the belief and behaviour of the people who assemble in them.*



*In noticing this, it is not uncommon for us to be dismissive of the buildings themselves by saying, 'A place of worship is not a building; it's people,' or 'I prefer worshipping God in the great cathedral of the outdoors.'*



*These pronouncements are often tagged with the Scriptural punchline, 'The God who made the universe doesn't live in custom-made shrines,' which is supposed to end the discussion. God doesn't live in buildings – period. That's what we often say.*



*But then there is Haggai to account for. Haggai was dignified with the title 'prophet' (therefore we must take him seriously). His single task, carried out in a three-and-a-half-month mission, was to get God's people to work at rebuilding God's Temple (the same Temple that had been destroyed by God's decree only seventy or so years earlier).*



*Compared with the great prophets who preached repentance and salvation, Haggai's message doesn't sound very 'spiritual'. But in God's economy it is perhaps unwise to rank our assigned work as either more or less spiritual.*



*We are not angels; we inhabit space. Material – bricks and mortar, boards and nails – keeps us grounded and connected with the ordinary world in which we necessarily live out our extraordinary beliefs.*



*Haggai keeps us in touch with those times in our lives when repairing the building where we worship is an act of obedience every bit as important as praying in that place of worship.*



# *Haggai*



## **Hag 1:1-4**

*'In die tweede jaar van koning Dariús, op die eerste dag van die sesde maand, het die woord van die HERE deur die diens van die profeet Haggai gekom...*



**HAGGAI: AS JULLE SAL OPOFFER GAAN DIT 'N  
FEES WEES!**



## **Hag 1:1-4**

*‘...het die woord van die Here deur die diens van die profeet Haggai gekom tot Serubbábel, die seun van Seáltiël, die goewerneur van Juda, en tot Josua, die seun van Jósadak, die hoëpriester, en gesê:*



## **Hag 1:1-4**

*So spreek die Here van die leërskaie: Hierdie volk sê: Nog het die tyd nie gekom, die tyd dat die huis van die HERE gebou moet word nie.*



## **Hag 1:1-4**

*So het die woord van die HERE dan gekom deur die diens van die profeet Haggai en gesê: Is dit vir julle self wel tyd om in julle betimmerde huise te woon, terwyl hierdie huis in puin lê?*



## **Hag 1:8**

*'Klim op die berg en bring hout aan en bou die huis; dan sal Ek 'n welgevalle daaraan hê en My verheerlik, sê die HERE.*



*Haggai keeps us in touch with those times in our lives when repairing the building where we worship is an act of obedience every bit as important as praying in that place of worship.*



## **Hag 1:12-15**

*'Toe het Serubbábel, die seun van Seáltiël, en Josua, die seun van Jósadak, die hoëpriester, en die hele oorblyfsel van die volk gehoor gegee aan die stem van die HERE hulle God en aan die woorde van Haggai, die profeet, volgens die opdrag waarmee die HERE hulle God hom gestuur het; en die volk was vervul met vrees voor die aangesig van die HERE.*



## **Hag 1:12-15**

*Daarop het Haggai, die boodskapper van die HERE, kragtens die boodskap van die HERE, met die volk gespreek en gesê: Ek is met julle, spreek die HERE.*





## **Hag 1:12-15**

*En die HERE het die gees van Serubbábel, die seun van Seáltiël, die goewerneur van Juda, en die gees van Josua, die seun van Jósadak, die hoëpriester, en die gees van die hele oorblyfsel van die volk opgewek.*



*'Want almal wat deur die Gees van God gelei word, dié is kinders van God.'* **(Rom 8:14)**



## **Hag 1:12-15**

*En toe het hulle gekom en die werk begin aan die huis van die HERE van die leërskaare, hulle God.*



## **Hag 1:12-15**

*Dit was op die vier en twintigste dag van die sesde maand, in die tweede jaar van koning Dariús.*



*‘Jónatan dan het aan die dienaar wat sy wapens dra, gesê: Kom, ons gaan oor na die wagpos van daardie onbesnedenes; miskien sal die HERE vir ons optree, want by die HERE is daar geen verhinderings om deur baie of deur min te verlos nie.’* **(1 Sam 14:6)**



## **Hag 2:4-5**

*'Nou dan, skeep moed, Serubbábel, spreek die  
HERE, en skeep moed, Josua, hoëpriester, seun  
van Jósadak, en skeep moed, julle almal, volk van  
die land, spreek die HERE, en werk!*



## **Hag 2:4-5**

*Want Ek is met julle, spreek die HERE van die leërskaare, met betrekking tot die verbond wat Ek met julle gesluit het by julle uittog uit Egipteland, en my Gees sal in julle midde bestendig bly; wees nie bevrees nie!*



## **Hag 2:8-9**

*'Aan My behoort die silwer en aan My die goud,  
spreek die HERE van die leërskaie.*



*'Ek hoef uit jou huis geen bul te neem of bokke uit jou krale nie; want al die wilde diere van die bos is myne, die vee op berge by duisende.*



*Ek ken al die voëls van die berge, en wat roer op die veld, is van My.*



I know all the *birds*  
of the mountains

Psalm 50:11



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*As Ek honger het, sal Ek jou dit nie sê nie; want die wêreld is myne en sy volheid.'* **(Ps 50:9-12)**





*Die toekomstige heerlijkheid van hierdie huis sal groter wees as die vroeëre, sê die HERE van die leërskaare; en op hierdie plek sal Ek vrede gee, spreek die HERE van die leërskaare.*



*About four centuries after Solomon, Haggai stood in the tattered capital of Jerusalem to deliver his message. His listeners had recently returned from seventy years of exile far to the east of tiny Israel.*



*Many of those who heard him would have been young people, Babylonian by birth, though Jewish by lineage. Nebuchadnezzar had taken their grandparents and parents from their homeland to live in Babylon until, decades later, Cyrus had set wheels in motion that allowed all who so wished to leave.*



*Darius had done Cyrus one better by approving official resources for the temple's rebuilding back home.*



*Home? Home was Babylon, where so many of these people had been born or raised or lived the vast portion of their lives. Still, a large group became enthusiastic about the prospect, remembering, no doubt, stories about the Promised Land told by their ancestors.*



*So many left 'home' and headed west to a new land that had occupied the hearts and minds and lives of those who have gone before them.*



## ***Hag 2:19***

*'...Van hierdie dag af sal Ek seën.'*



*'Koop waarheid en verkoop dit nie, ook wysheid en tug en verstand.'* **(Spr 23:23)**



# *Haggai*