

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Faithful to Enable Us to Rebuild

Haggai

INTRODUCTION: Continue to have more and more join us in person. WELCOME!

To those still worshipping online, WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE! September 20 will be our Reconnect Sunday when our Preschool and Children LCGs resume along with Youth and Adults. We are praying for conditions to get to the place that you can rejoin us. We miss you. We want to see you. We want to talk with you, even if it is through a mask six feet away!

Disaster Relief for victims of Hurricane Laura – if you would be interested in going Monday – Saturday any of the next several weeks, call the church office or send an email to mikeclaunch@sabc.org. Hoping to lead a team as soon as Labor Day, September 7.

Now, church, it is my great privilege to bring you good news.

The Building 4 Generations to Come Building Team was in the Fellowship Hall until 10:30 p.m. Tuesday night putting the finishing touches on their report to St. Andrew Baptist Church that offers us a plan to rebuild our Worship Center and all that goes with it.

We will be printing the extensive report of the team this week, and our plan is to have it here next Sunday morning for distribution. I can tell you that I am excited. I will tell you that I personally believe this is God's plan for our church.

Do you remember the last Sunday in January? I brought the team down to the front and asked you to pray for us. For more than a year we had been struggling because the price for the building was too high. We needed to have the mind of Christ in the matter and to find the way forward that He had established for us.

They stood here, and you stood by your seats and extended your arms and prayed for them.

God began to answer that prayer the very next week. Since then the Lord has shown us His path and opened doors for us that are nothing less than miraculous.

Now our Building Team has a plan for us that is wonderful in every way, and the price is not too high. If, when you read this report about what our great God has done, you do not shout, "Glory!" and give Him thanksgiving and praise, then you better fall to your knees and ask Him to revive your backslidden soul!

The fingerprints of God on this plan He has given us are so evident that I believe even a lost man could see them. I stand amazed to realize all that the Lord has done to bring us to this place. I cannot wait for you to also be able to learn of God's great faithfulness to enable us to rebuild.

And we should not be at all surprised, because we are not the first of God's people for God to enable to build a building when they were doing it for His glory.

I take you this morning to the Book of Haggai the prophet.

Let me share with you a little background for God's message to His people through Haggai.

Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem	606 B.C.
Three deportations – next 10 years	605-596 B.C.
Fall of Jerusalem – another 10 years	July 9, 586 B.C.
Ministry of Daniel and Ezekiel in Babylon	
Babylon falls to Medes and Persians	Oct. 29, 539 B.C.
Cyrus decrees rebuilding of temple – 70 years after 1 st deportation	538 B.C.
The Remnant Returns under Zerubbabel	Spring, 536 B.C.
Altar built; sacrifices begun	Oct. 1, 536 B.C.
Work begins on the temple – 1 year after they arrived	May, 535 B.C.
Samaritans interfere with rebuilding – work for 6 years	535 B.C.
Cyrus dies. Rebuilding stopped. People concentrated on building their own houses, expanding their fields, and planting new vineyards. – stopped work for 7 years	529 B.C.
God sends a message through Haggai.	521 B.C.

Haggai 1:2–8 NKJV

2 “Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built.” ’ ”

3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4 “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?” ...

7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!

8 Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the LORD.

- **The remnant**, once eager and prompt to honor the Lord by excitedly re-building the temple had **neglected God's work for seven years.**

The stoppage began due to opposition, but it continued because of neglect.

God said, "Get with it! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified."

Folks, I do not believe that our congregation, thus far, has been neglectful in rebuilding our Worship Center. On the contrary, you have been eager, wanting a plan, wanting to rebuild.

The team has been eager also, but careful not to run ahead of God.

Now, just now, God has put the pieces together, and I believe God is telling us to get with it. And that's what we are going to do!

- Next Sunday – distribute the report and recommendations of B4GTC Building Team
- Week of Sept. 13 - Three Information meetings; daytime, night time, small venues, large venue, Social Distancing
- Week of Sept. 20 – Three church conferences, daytime, night time, small venues, large venue – Come to one, come to all three, whatever you want.
- Lord willing, by the end of that week, less than a month from now, we will be on our way!

"How is that possible?" You will see when you get the report next Sunday. Be here!

- After the Lord sent His word through the prophet Haggai, **The people obeyed the Lord!**

Haggai 1:12 NKJV Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the LORD.

My prayer, in all of this, is that we will quickly and completely obey the Lord in what He has for us to do.

After the people obeyed, and the work began again, the Lord made promises to them.

Haggai 2:4 NKJV Yet now **be strong**, Zerubbabel,' says the Lord; 'and **be strong**, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and **be strong**, all you people of the land,' says the Lord, '**and work; for I am with you,**' says the Lord of hosts.

Haggai 2:5 NKJV 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so **My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!**'

Haggai 2:6-7 NKJV “For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and **they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,**’ says the Lord of hosts.

- **The promises of God:**

- **I am with you.**
- **My Spirit remains with you.**
- **People will come to Jesus.**
- **My glory will fill the temple.** Fulfilled when Jesus was dedicated in the temple. Fulfilled again in millennial temple when Jesus reigns.

If we will obey, as the remnant did, we will see these things happen in our own rebuilt Worship Center. The Worship Center is not the temple; our bodies are the temple – but as we gather in worship the Glory of the Lord fills us and wherever we are.

The Lord will be with us.

His Spirit will continue to live in us.

People will hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus.

His glory, His revealed Presence which abides in every believer, will fill that place.

God is faithful. And He is faithful to enable us to rebuild.