

# Haggai

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Good & bad apples...?

## Context - 1:1

*1:1 In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest:*

- 🌿 740BC - Assyrian Exile of Northern Kingdom: simple destruction
- 🌿 587BC - Babylonian Exile: 'brightest and best'
- 🌿 539-330BC - Persian Empire: return to homelands
  - Cyrus – first king



*Cyrus Cylinder: discovered 1879 at Esagila temple in Babylon, now at The British Museum*

- 522-486BC – Darius I
- Ezra 1:5-11; 5:14-16 – first return
- Haggai 1:1 – second wave (Zerubbabel)

1:1	Year 1	month 6	day 1	= 29 <sup>th</sup> August 520BC	} Structure
2:1	Year 2	month 7	day 21	=17 <sup>th</sup> October 520BC	
2:10	Year 2	month 9	day 24	=18 <sup>th</sup> December 520BC	
2:20	Year 2	month 9	day 24	=18 <sup>th</sup> December 520BC.	

- 🌿 Isaiah 45:1-3 – Cyrus (=Persia) as God's agent
- 🌿 Isaiah 45:13 – Cyrus (=Persia) as Israel's hope: the restoration of messianic kingdom

HOPE!

But:

1:11 – drought

1:4 – no temple

...waiting?

Natural Drought...Spiritual Drought?

Q: What does it look like to still be waiting for the fulfilment of our hope as Christians today?

Q: How might calling for the restoration of God's honour be the right way out of the natural disaster of Covid?

## Oracle 1 (1:1-15) – Restore True Worship

1:4 – *my house lies in ruins*

1:11 – *I have called a drought*

THIS is the in-between: hope, but it doesn't feel good

1:5 (it's not working)

1:9 (that's God's doing)

The prophet of the 'homeless' (God)

1:1-11 "RESTORE TRUE WORSHIP"

1:12 REPENTANCE

1:13 REASSURANCE

1:14-15 REBUILDING (begins)

## Oracle 2 (2:1-9) – Remember the LORD’s Promises

2:1 – about a month after the rebuilding began

2:3 – and it’s not looking great...

(remember 1Kings 7-10?)

2:4 – God’s answer: Take courage... I’m still keeping my word (from Exodus days)

2:6 – in fact, it’ll be even better: *I will shake the heavens and the earth*

...to your poverty will come prosperity

1:1-11 Message: Restore True Worship

1:12-15 Response: Repentance/Rebuilding Temple

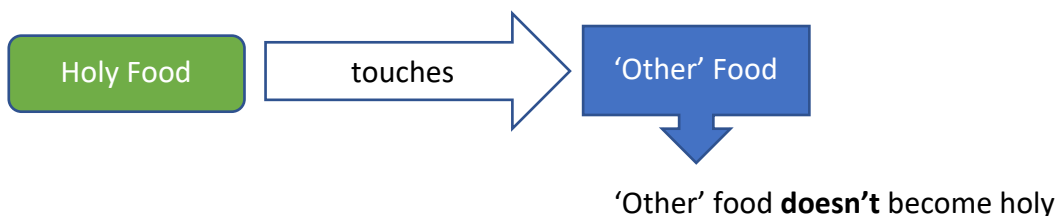
2:1-9 Message-in-response: Remember the LORD’s Promises

Q: What do these first two messages from Haggai have to say to us today?

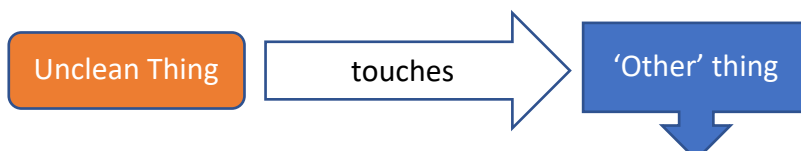
- Restore True Worship
- Remember the LORD’s Promises

## Oracle 3 (2:10-19) – Ritual Purity Still Matters

2:12



2:13



2:14 – and this applies to you

‘Other’ thing does become unclean

Holiness isn’t contagious – Uncleaness **is**

## Oracle 4 (2:20-23) – Re-instating the Messianic King

2:23 – the signet ring

### ... The True Signet Ring

Q: What hope is there in these last two messages from Haggai to strengthen your faith today?

- Ritual Purity (Torah) Still Matters
- Re-Instating the Messianic King