

Consider Your Ways



Haggai 1 · This week: Holiness unto the Lord, Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–4; 7–14

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 50, “Holiness unto the Lord,” on Gospel Library**

START

“Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough” (Haggai 1:6). Haggai’s people worked hard and never seemed to have enough.

READ TOGETHER

The king of Persia had let the Jews go home to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:2–3). They laid the foundation, and then the work stopped for years (Ezra 3:10–11; 4:24).

HAGGAI 1:4–6

⁴Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste? ⁵Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. ⁶Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

HAGGAI 1:8

⁸Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The people said, “The time is not come, the time that the Lord’s house should be built” (Haggai 1:2). They had found time to finish fine wood-paneled houses for themselves (verse 4). Twice the Lord told them, “Consider your ways” (verses 5 and 7).

They earned wages and put them “into a bag with holes” (verse 6). Everything they worked for seemed to leak away while the Lord’s house sat unfinished. Jesus taught the same order of things. Seek first the kingdom of God, and the other things we need will be added (Matthew 6:33).

The Lord’s instruction was plain. “Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house” (verse 8). Within about three weeks the people were back at work, and the Lord told them, “I am with you” (Haggai 1:13–15).

In 1833 the Lord rebuked the early Saints in Kirtland, Ohio, for the same delay with their temple (Doctrine and Covenants 95:3). They began work on it within days.

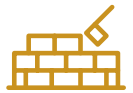
TALK ABOUT IT

Haggai told the people to consider their ways. If we looked at how we spent our time this week, what would it say about what comes first?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Haggai’s people worked hard and still put their wages into a bag with holes. When they put the Lord’s house first, he told them, “I am with you.”

Be Strong and Work



Haggai 2:1–9 · This week: Holiness unto the Lord, Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–4; 7–14

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 50, “Holiness unto the Lord,” on Gospel Library**

START

Some of the oldest people in Jerusalem remembered Solomon’s temple. When they saw the foundation of the new one, they wept (Ezra 3:12).

READ TOGETHER

The new temple was much plainer than Solomon’s, and the ark of the covenant was gone. The Lord asked, “Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now?” (Haggai 2:3).

HAGGAI 2:4–5

⁴Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: ⁵According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

HAGGAI 2:9

⁹The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The Lord said “be strong” three times in one verse, to the governor, to the high priest, and to “all ye people of the land” (Haggai 2:4). In the

same verse he told them, “work: for I am with you.” Then he added, “fear ye not” (verse 5).

“The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former” (verse 9). A plainer building would have the greater glory. Years later Jesus Christ walked in the courts of this same temple, taught there, and called it “my Father’s house” (John 2:13–16).

“And in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts” (Haggai 2:9). The temple is still a place of peace. The work done there can look ordinary, and the Lord fills it with his glory.

TALK ABOUT IT

The new temple seemed like nothing next to the old one, and the Lord said its glory would be greater. When has something that looked small turned out to matter a great deal?

TAKE TO CHURCH

The Lord told the discouraged builders to be strong and work, because he was with them. Jesus Christ later taught in that temple and filled it with glory.

Change of Raiment



Zechariah 1:1–6; 3 • This week: Holiness unto the Lord, Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–4; 7–14

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 50, “Holiness unto the Lord,” on Gospel Library**

START

In a vision, Zechariah saw Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord in filthy clothes, while Satan stood by to accuse him (Zechariah 3:1–3).

READ TOGETHER

Zechariah preached alongside Haggai while the temple was being rebuilt (Zechariah 1:1; Ezra 5:1). His first message was “Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you” (Zechariah 1:3).

ZECHARIAH 3:3–4

³Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. ⁴And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

ZECHARIAH 3:7

⁷Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Satan came to accuse Joshua, and the Lord rebuked Satan. “Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?” (Zechariah 3:2). A brand is a stick pulled from a fire before it burns up. The Lord had already rescued Joshua, and he meant to keep him.

The Lord told those standing by to take away the filthy garments. Then he said to Joshua, “I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment” (verse 4). The cleaning was the Lord’s work.

A clean mitre, the high priest’s turban, was set on Joshua’s head (verse 5). The high priest’s mitre carried a gold plate engraved with the words Holiness to the Lord (Exodus 28:36–38).

Verse 7 adds a covenant. “If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge,” Joshua would serve in the Lord’s house. Baptism works the same way. The Savior makes us clean, we promise to walk in his ways, and each week the sacrament renews that promise.

TALK ABOUT IT

Zechariah saw the Lord replace filthy clothes with clean ones. Why do you think we wear white when we are baptized?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Satan accused Joshua, and the Lord took away his filthy clothes and gave him clean ones. Jesus Christ does that for us, and we promise to walk in his ways.

By My Spirit



Zechariah 4 · This week: Holiness unto the Lord, Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–4; 7–14

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 50, “Holiness unto the Lord,” on Gospel Library**

START

Zechariah saw a golden lampstand with seven lamps, and an olive tree on each side of it (Zechariah 4:2–3).

READ TOGETHER

Zerubbabel, the governor, had laid the temple's foundation years before, and the work had stalled (Zechariah 4:9; Ezra 4:24). The builders had little money and many enemies.

ZECHARIAH 4:6

⁶Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

ZECHARIAH 4:9–10

⁹The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. ¹⁰For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The angel explained the vision in one line. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6). Lamps burn as long as oil keeps flowing to them. The temple would

be finished because the Spirit of the Lord was with the builders.

“Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain” (verse 7). The problems in front of them looked like a mountain, and the Lord said they would be leveled.

“For who hath despised the day of small things?” (verse 10). The foundation looked small, and the same hands that laid it would finish it (verse 9). By small and simple things the Lord brings great things to pass (Alma 37:6).

When the last stone went on, the people would shout, “Grace, grace unto it” (verse 7). The Lord’s grace finishes what our hands begin.

TALK ABOUT IT

What is one small thing you do each day, like a prayer or a kind word, that the Lord could use to build something great?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Zechariah learned that the temple would be finished by the Lord’s Spirit and by his grace. Small beginnings matter to the Lord, and he finishes what he starts.

Thy King Cometh

Zechariah 9:9–11 · This week: Holiness unto the Lord, Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–4; 7–14

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 50, “Holiness unto the Lord,” on Gospel Library**



START

Kings in Zechariah’s day rode horses and chariots to war. Zechariah saw a King coming to Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).

READ TOGETHER

Chapters 9 to 14 look far ahead, to the Messiah’s life on earth and to his Second Coming.

ZECHARIAH 9:9–10

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. ¹⁰ And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

WHAT IT TEACHES

“Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass” (Zechariah 9:9). A king on a donkey comes in peace. Verse 10 says he would “speak peace unto the heathen.”

About five hundred years later, Jesus sent two disciples to bring a donkey and her colt, and he rode into Jerusalem. Matthew wrote that it happened “that it might be fulfilled” (Matthew 21:1–5). The crowds spread their clothes and branches on the road and cried, “Hosanna to the Son of David” (Matthew 21:8–9).

Elder Ronald A. Rasband spoke about the people who welcomed him. “The multitude who paid tribute with palms hailed Him as the Messiah. That was exactly who He was.”

Elder Ronald A. Rasband, “Hosanna to the Most High God,” General conference, April 2023

Verse 11 adds a promise. “By the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.” After his death, the Savior visited the faithful spirits and set them free, and he sent messengers to preach the gospel to the spirits in prison (1 Peter 3:18–19; Doctrine and Covenants 138:18–19; 138:29–30).

TALK ABOUT IT

The people of Jerusalem spread their coats on the road to welcome Jesus. How can we welcome him into our home this Christmas season?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Zechariah saw a lowly King riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus fulfilled that prophecy, and he still comes in peace to anyone who welcomes him.

Wounds in Thine Hands

Zechariah 11:12–13; 12:10; 13:6–7 · This week: Holiness unto the Lord, Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–4; 7–14

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 50, “Holiness unto the Lord,” on Gospel Library**



START

In the law of Moses, thirty pieces of silver was the price set on a servant’s life (Exodus 21:32). Zechariah saw a shepherd valued at that price (Zechariah 11:12).

READ TOGETHER

In Zechariah 11, the prophet acts out the part of a shepherd rejected by the flock he cared for. When he asks for his wages, they weigh out thirty pieces of silver, and the Lord calls the insult “a goodly price” (Zechariah 11:13).

ZECHARIAH 11:12–13

¹² And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.

¹³ And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

ZECHARIAH 13:6

⁶ And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Judas agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14–15). Later he threw the silver down in the temple, and the priests used it to buy a potter’s field (Matthew 27:3–7). Zechariah had written of silver cast “to the potter in the house of the Lord.”

“They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for

his only son” (Zechariah 12:10). John watched a soldier pierce the Savior’s side after he died, and he wrote that this scripture was fulfilled (John 19:34–37).

In Zechariah 13:6, someone asks, “What are these wounds in thine hands?” The answer is, “Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.” When the Savior comes again, he will show his wounds to the Jews, and they will know him (Doctrine and Covenants 45:51–53).

The risen Lord kept those wounds. He invited the Nephites to come and feel them, and they came forward one by one until everyone had (3 Nephi 11:14–15). His wounds show how much he loves us.

TALK ABOUT IT

Zechariah wrote about the Savior’s suffering about five hundred years before it happened. Why do you think the Lord let his prophets see it so far ahead?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Zechariah saw the thirty pieces of silver, the piercing, and the wounds in the Savior’s hands. By those wounds his people will know him when he comes again.

Holiness unto the Lord



Zechariah 8:3–17; 14:4–21 · This week: Holiness unto the Lord, Haggai 1–2; Zechariah 1–4; 7–14

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 50, “Holiness unto the Lord,” on Gospel Library**

START

In Zechariah’s vision of the last days, even the bells on the horses carry the words “Holiness unto the Lord” (Zechariah 14:20).

READ TOGETHER

The last chapter of Zechariah describes the Second Coming. The Lord’s feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, and the mountain will split in two (Zechariah 14:4).

ZECHARIAH 8:4–5

⁴Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. ⁵And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.

ZECHARIAH 14:9

⁹And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

ZECHARIAH 14:20

²⁰In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

WHAT IT TEACHES

“The Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one” (Zechariah 14:9). Verse 8 adds that “living waters

shall go out from Jerusalem,” like the river Ezekiel saw coming from the temple.

The pots in the Lord’s house, and even “every pot in Jerusalem,” would be holy (Zechariah 14:20–21). Cooking pots and horse bells are ordinary things. In the Lord’s kingdom, ordinary life becomes holy too.

Zechariah also saw old men and women sitting in the streets of Jerusalem, and “the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing” (Zechariah 8:4–5). Zion is a safe place for children and grandparents alike.

Our temples bear the words Holiness to the Lord. The Lord asks us to carry that holiness home, to speak the truth and to plan no evil against our neighbors (Zechariah 8:16–17).

TALK ABOUT IT

What ordinary things in our home, like a kitchen pot or a car, could we use in holy ways this week?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Zechariah saw Holiness unto the Lord written on horses’ bells and cooking pots. The Savior can make our ordinary days holy, along with the hours we spend at church.