



Week 7: Christology – Seeing Jesus

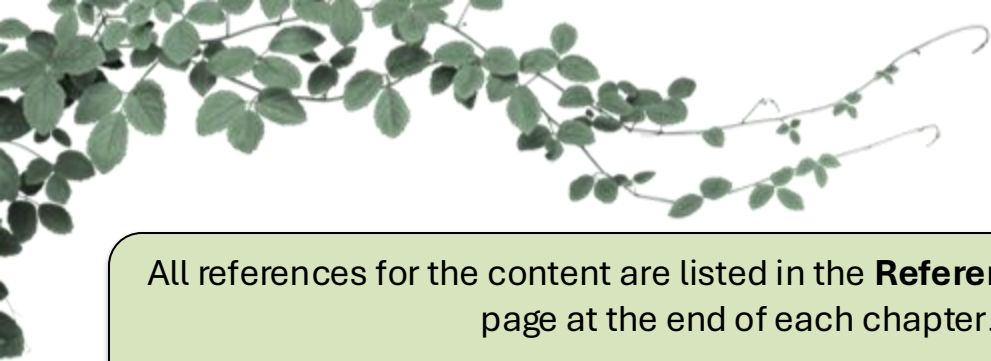


A 7 Lesson Bible Study

Standing in the Ruins-

Haggai

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All references for the content are listed in the **References and Resources** page at the end of each chapter.

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Cindy Collier

Standing in the Ruins –
a Study of the book of Haggai

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Haggai

CHRISTOLOGY OF HAGGAI



Seeing Jesus.

Who is God in this text?

Who am I in relation to God?

What should I do next?

The word Christology means *relating to Christ, seeing Christ and the role of Christ*. Sometimes it can be a bit challenging to find Jesus and the gospel message in a book like Haggai because we become so wrapped up in the historical events that occurred *before the common era* (B.C. years).

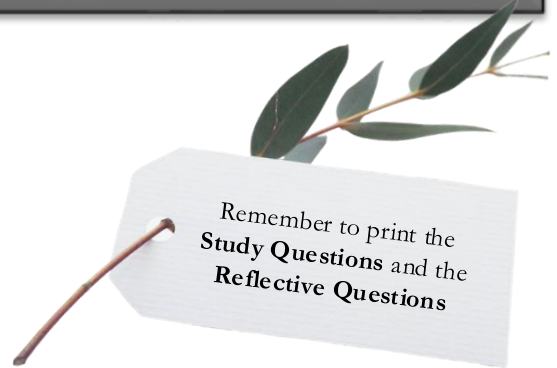
But Jesus is there.

The entirety of God's word was written with Christology in mind. The Old Testament was written to provide promises and hope of the future coming of Salvation through Jesus, and the New Testament was written to reveal the fulfillment of those promises in the coming of Salvation through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Every word of Scripture was methodically written. Every word of Scripture served a unified purpose. And every word of Scripture was ordered and organized, pointing to the fulfillment of the purpose God set into motion at the beginning of time.

So, can we see Jesus in this two-chapter minor prophetic book?

Absolutely.



Key Scripture

Haggai 2:20-23

Key Term

Jesus

Key Verse

Haggai 2:23

“On this day’, declares the Lord Almighty. ‘I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will make you like my signet ring for I have chosen you.’
declares the Lord Almighty.”

God rules.

Haggai 2 verses 20-21:

20 The word of the Lord came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month:

This was the first time that God spoke to the people twice in one day, and this was the first time that he chose only one person to address. Zerubbabel.

But there was a reason – Zerubbabel had a history. His obedience would play a part in redeeming the mistakes of the past generations.

21 “Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.

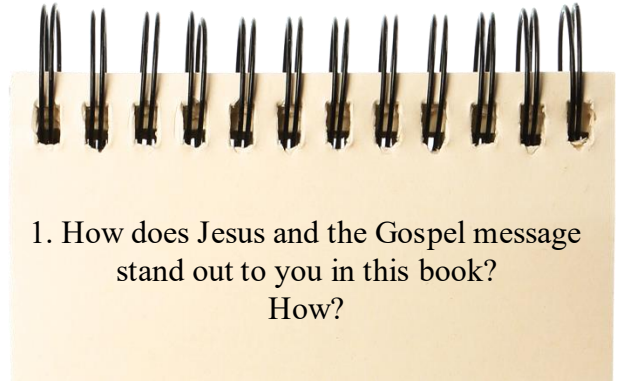
First, who was Zerubbael?

His name can be translated as *the seed of Babylon*. Even though there was some controversy, most commentators indicate that he was the son of Shealtiel (Haggai 1:1) and served as the governor or the administrator of the remnant who returned to do the work of the temple reconstruction. He was born while in captivity in Babylon to a royal lineage.

I Chronicles 3:17 gives us the name of his grandfather:

“The descendants of Jehoiachin the captive: Shealtiel, his son”

His grandfather, Jehoiachin, was the last king of Judah before Babylon conquered them. Even though Zerubbael played a major role in the reconstruction, he was never mentioned in Ezra 6:13-18 and may not have been present at its dedication.



1. How does Jesus and the Gospel message stand out to you in this book?
How?

II Chronicles 36:9 tells us that Jehoiachin, was also known as Jeconiah or Coniah. Jehoiachin ruled in Judah for a little over three months and did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He was young, at only 18 years of age, when he began his rule. Scripture indicates that God finally lost patience with him and his evil rule, even though he was to be in the lineage of David and the future Messiah.

Jeremiah 22:30:

*“This is what the Lord says:
‘Record this man (Jehoiachin) as if childless,
a man who will not prosper in his lifetime, for
none of his offspring will prosper,
none will sit on the throne of David
or rule anymore in Judah.’”*

This would have caused serious problems, as the Messiah was to come from the line of David, as shown in John 7:42

*“Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will
come from David's descendants
and from Bethlehem,
the town where David lived?”*

Would the lineage of the Messiah be in question due to the unrighteous behavior of man?

Our mistakes can not stop the plan of God.

And the Lord's anger and rebuke were also evident in Jeremiah 22:24:

"As surely as I live," declares the LORD, 'even if you, Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I would still pull you off.'"

A signet ring is important in that it symbolizes authority. Anyone who had been given the king's signet ring went with the king's authority. Using the ring, they could imprint onto treaties and any correspondence, validating the document as coming from the palace. It carried authority, and you would represent the king. But God said he would pull it from Jehoiachin, Zerubbael's grandfather, and the generations to come.

Keeping these things in mind, continue on in Haggai 2:22:

22 I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother.

God will stop at nothing to protect His people and His plan for the redemption of mankind. Because of the evil of two generations before, David's lineage was in jeopardy, but God redeemed the Davidic line through Zerubbael's obedience. God will overthrow whoever He must overthrow. He will shatter those who got in the way.

God's plan can not be stopped.

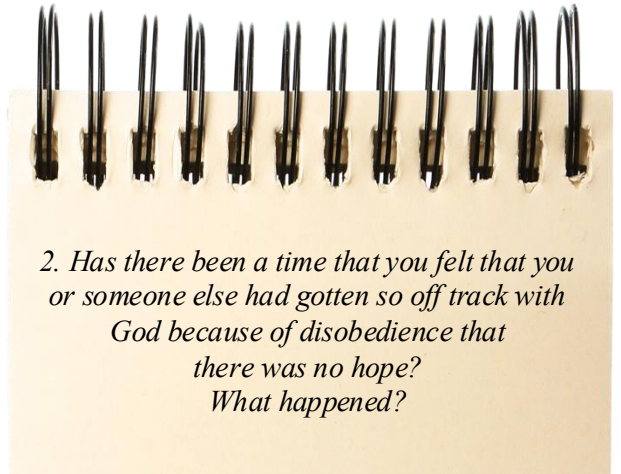
God is sovereign.

The last verse of the book of Haggai brings hope for the future. Through Zerubbael, it brings back the signet ring, in addition to redemption and forgiveness, to a people who had an up-and-down relationship with their God.

Haggai 2:23:

23 " 'On that day,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant, Zerubbael son of Shealtiel,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the Lord Almighty. "

The authority had been given back to the ancestral lineage of King David, from which would come the Messiah. It's not that Zerubbael was anything special, but he was obedient. He had gone in and completed the task assigned to him by God. He led the people back to obedience by being an example of humility.



The Desired of All Nations

Go back a few verses to Haggai 2:7 (ESV)

*And I will shake all nations so that the
*treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill
this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts.*

The NIV says **what is desired by all nations.*

Haggai uses the word *shake* twice in this chapter:

I will shake all nations. (verse 7)
I will shake heaven and earth. (verse 21)

The word *shake* in these passages in Hebrew is *Ra'ash*, which means to transform by a powerful upheaval that is associated with judgment. He will do whatever it takes to whomever comes against him.

And He will do this so that “*what is desired of all nations*” shall come in.

That is Jesus.

In the New Testament, when the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament came to fruition, authority was given to Jesus.

Matthew 28:18 tells us that Jesus holds the signet ring of God – all authority was given to Him.

*“Then Jesus came to them and said,
“All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.”*

His plan was complete.

Regardless of the ruin that the people found themselves in because of the evil thrust upon them.

Regardless of the ruin they found themselves in due to the mistakes they made or the disobedient history they had come from...

God was faithful.

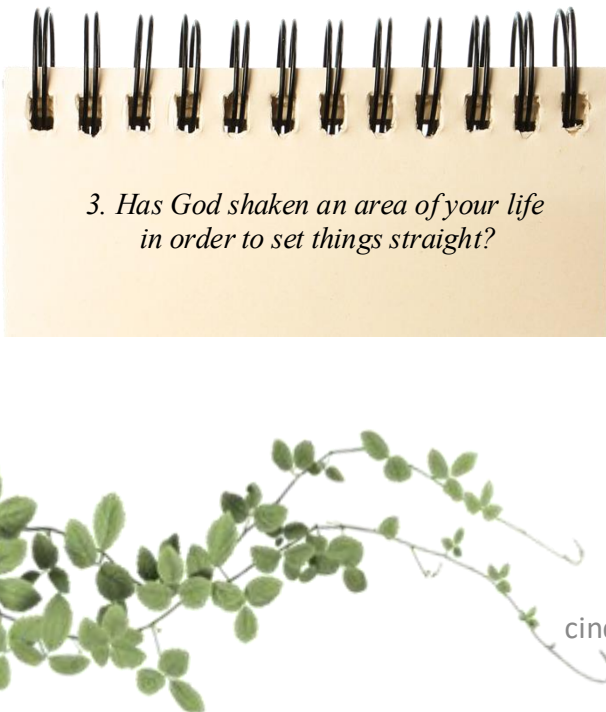
He will do what he needs to do, using the power and wisdom that he embodies to see that what he has set in motion is fulfilled.

There is Jesus.

In every book.

The gospel message and promise of God’s redeeming love for His people is the thread that runs through each book, each chapter and verse. No story, no lesson, no promise is without purpose.

The Gospel is realized - the hope for a unified relationship with God through the forgiveness of sin.



3. *Has God shaken an area of your life
in order to set things straight?*

Conclusion

The book of Haggai is fascinating.

It is only two chapters long, and the messages were preached over a 15-week period of time. The 38 verses are rich in content that was not only pertinent to those in Jerusalem at the time, but to those of us reading it today.

It teaches us to:

Consider our ways and examine our lives. To take note of how far we may have strayed from where God would want us to be, and how we have ordered our priorities.

Get busy doing what God has given us to do, whether it be to take back what the enemy has destroyed or to walk out our life in faith before men, bringing honor to God.

Be strong and fearless in our walk, not looking back except to remember how faithful God was to protect and provide. Our obedience brings Him joy, and He is not impressed with an outward appearance.

Be encouraged because, even though we may be at the end of our ropes with no seed left in the storehouse for which to rebuild, He is able. All of creation is under His command.

God brought back what evil threatened to destroy in the choices of the early kings, and through his sovereign rule, his plan for redemption through Jesus the Messiah was brought to completion just for us.

*Thank you, God, for giving us this word,
teaching us the things we need to learn, giving
us wisdom, and working your will in our lives.
Amen.*



STANDING IN RUINS

Are you standing in ruins? Have bad decisions, mistakes, traumatic experiences or the decisions and sins of others impacted your life and taken you to a place you didn't want to go? Have your priorities shifted? Do you feel as if you are standing in the midst of rubble alone, not knowing the next step to take?

Remember that God sees and is still in control. In the book of Genesis, Jacob was being deceived and mistreated by his own family. He didn't know the next steps to take in order to protect himself, but God saw, and he knew everything that was happening. Genesis 31:12, *"...for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you."*

Remember that God loves you, and all He wants is your obedience. He will do anything to rearrange your priorities so that He is first.

Remember that He loves you and did not create the rubble you stand in, but will use circumstances to get your attention. He may even withhold his blessing, so you turn your eyes back to Him.

He loves you that much.

Summary

Most scholars believe that Christology is the purpose of scripture - seeing Christ in every book, chapter, and verse. God outlined his promise for salvation and fulfilled that promise regardless of man's mistakes.

The book of Haggai is no exception.

Jesus is there.

This chapter was about:

- **Finding Jesus.** Looking for Jesus through the stories, the history, the mistakes, and the triumphs.
- **Remembering that God is sovereign.** His plan is not dependent upon man's decisions and behavior.
- **Mistakes are not dead ends to God.** God rules over all of creation, and even when things seem hopeless due to human choices, God still has control. His plan for the salvation of man through His son was set before the beginning of time and will be seen to fruition.
- **God holds obedience to His command and instruction in high esteem.** Man's job is not to do as he thinks and determines but to follow God's instruction without fail. Zerubbabel was obedient, and because of that obedience, God chose him, and authority was given back to the line of David.
- **It is all about Jesus.** He is the *desired* of all nations, and God will shake, bringing upheaval and judgment to anything that comes against it.

Who is God in this text?

He is Creator. He is the designer of all purposes and plans. He is the ruler who brings fulfillment of all that he had purposed from the beginning.

Who am I in relation to God, and what should I do next?

I am loved, I am treasured, I am His, and He will do what it takes to bring me to a relationship with Him.

I listen, I surrender to his instruction, am subservient to his will, and I obey.

Biblical References



Takeaways and Tasks

- The Bible is about God – not man.

Read scripture looking for God. Begin to look for the character traits of God in the passages you read.

- Jesus and the Gospel message can be found in every book of Scripture.

As you read – begin to notice how the Gospel plays out in the scripture.

- God doesn't give up.

His plans do not change because of our mistakes.

Repent and turn back to obedience, as the Israelites did. Obedience pleases God.

- Don't give up on others.

Turn the people and situation over to God – He sees and knows how to reach their heart.

- Remember that God can redeem the rubble.

In Genesis 41:52, Joseph named his son Ephraim, which means: “*God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.*”


God can bring good out of the most devastating of circumstances.

Prayer

Father God, thank you for Your Word and your plan. We have faith that you are in control and nothing will stop the plans you have set forth for the redemption of man. Open our eyes and teach us. Help us to be observant to your hand at work.

I love you dearly.

Amen.



Study Questions

As you work through each of the Chapter's Study Questions – you should first answer this question. This will guide the remaining questions.

Who was God in the text?

What does it teach us about God, his character, who He is, and what he does?

Study Questions Chapter 9

Haggai: Christology

Seeing Jesus

Haggai 2:23

“On this day’, declares the Lord Almighty. ‘I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will make you like my signet ring for I have chosen you.’
declares the Lord Almighty.”

Seeing Jesus.

Answer in a few words the following:

1. What does the word *Christology* mean?

2. Who did God speak to in verse 21?

3. What are some key facts about Zerubbael or his family?

4. What is the significance of a signet ring?


5. Who did God give authority to in the New Testament?

6. The word *shake* in verses 7 and 21 comes from which Hebrew word? And what is the meaning?

7. Who is the *desired of all nations* from verse 7?

8. How is Jesus found in the book of Haggai?

9. How do the lessons from Haggai change your walk with the Lord?.



Study Questions
Answer Keys

Study Questions Chapter 9

Haggai: Christology

Seeing Jesus

Haggai 2:23

“On this day,” declares the Lord Almighty, “I will take away the reproach of my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,” declares the Lord Almighty, “and I will make you like my signet ring for I have chosen you,” declares the Lord Almighty.

ANSWER KEY

Seeing Jesus.

Answer in a few words the following:

1. What does the word *Christology* mean?

Relating to Christ, seeing Christ and the
role of Christ in the passage of Scripture

2. Who did God speak to in verse 21?

Zerubbabel, governor of Judah

3. What are some key facts about Zerubbael or his family?

He was born in captivity in Babylon
His grandfather, Jehoiachin, was an evil
man and the last king of Judah

4. What is the significance of a signet ring?

It symbolizes authority because they would use
the ring to imprint treaties in the king's stead.

5. Who did God give authority to in the New Testament?

Jesus in Matthew 28:18

6. The word *shake* in verses 7 and 21 comes from which Hebrew word? And what is the meaning?

Ra'ash which means to transform by a powerful
upheaval which is associated with
judgment.

7. Who is the *desired of all nations* from verse 7?

Jesus

8. How is Jesus found in the book of Haggai?

He is found through God's promise to fulfill
his plan for salvation. He would come through the
line of David as the desired of all nations and the
glory of the new temple (Jesus) would be greater.

9. How do the lessons from Haggai change your walk with the Lord?.

A photograph of a branch with several green leaves and a small white tag attached to it with a string. The tag is the central focus of the page, containing the title and introductory text.

Reflective Questions

As you work through the Reflective Questions, you should also answer these two overarching questions.

Who am I in relation to God?

How does learning about who God is determine who you are in relation to Him?

What should I do next?

This is the application phase. What is my next step using what I have learned?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

CHAPTER 9: SEEING JESUS



Your Story
How is God speaking to you through this last lesson?

Question 1

How does Jesus and the Gospel message stand out to you in this book?
How?

Question 2

Has there been a time that you felt that you or someone else had gotten so off track with God because of disobedience that there was no hope? What happened?

Question 3

Has God shaken an area of your life in order to set things straight?

Question 4

What have you learned about:

- Who God was in this scripture?
- Who you are in relation to God?
- And what should you do next based on that knowledge?

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