

## Haggai 2: 10-22 Study

### Haggai 2: 10

When did Haggai receive his third message?

\*Notice he emphasizes this date explicitly three times in the chapter: Verses 10, 18, 20.

\*Note: This message was for the priests.

### **Hanukkah**

Haggai received his message on Kislev 24 which would become the eve of the Jewish holiday Hanukkah many years later. Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the temple. Apparently, the Jews in the times of the Maccabees were forbidden to celebrate The Feast of Tabernacles at the correct time. Once the Maccabees obtained victory, Hanukkah was the belated celebration of The Feast of Tabernacles. Jesus celebrated Hanukkah in John 10: 22 where he declared that He and the Father are one. Jesus used very similar wording to the Shema prayer that Jewish people say from Deuteronomy 6:4.

What is the purpose of the temple? See 1 Kings 8: 10-12, 27.

So rededicating the temple means that God can once again dwell among His people. Why do you think Jesus would he say that He and his Father are one at the Rededication Celebration?

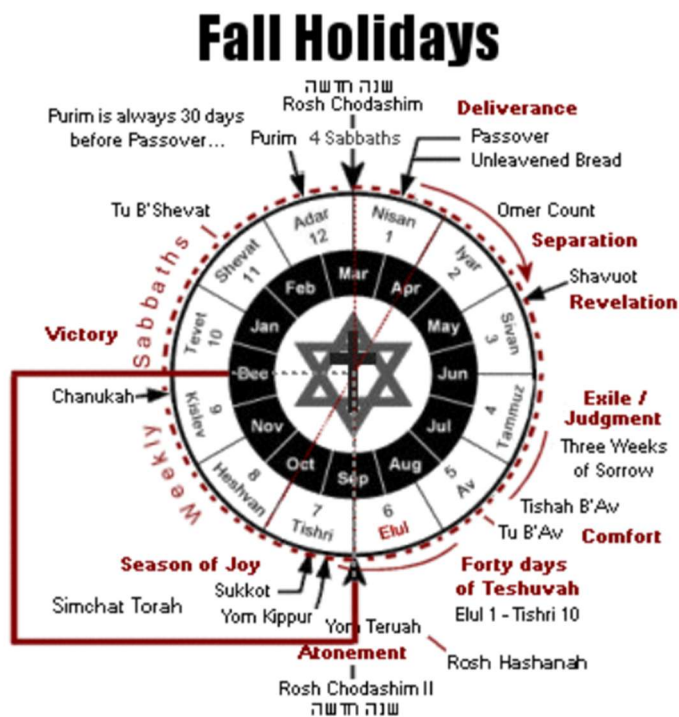
### Haggai 2: 11-12

Can holiness be transferred from one thing to another?

Note: Consecrated meat made the garment holy (Leviticus 6: 27), but the garment could not then transfer holiness.

### Haggai 2: 13

Can uncleanness (defilement) be transferred from one thing to another? See Numbers 19: 11-13, 22.



**Haggai 2: 14**

How does God (via Haggai) refer to the people of Israel?

What is the problem with the people?

Now the people are building the temple which is holy. Will the holiness of the temple transfer to them?  
Or will the people's uncleanness transfer to the temple?

Note: The Book of Maccabees (which is considered a historical book that's not part of the Biblical canon) states that the Israelites had to repurify the temple after it was defiled by Antiochus. Once this purification was complete, they rededicated the temple, and instituted the Feast of Dedication (aka Hanukkah) which was because they couldn't celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles at the proper time. This shows how the temple can be defiled.

**Haggai 2: 15-16**

What state were the people in before the foundation was laid?

**Haggai 2: 17**

Who caused these problems for the Israelites and why?

How does this compare to Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the first temple? See 1 Kings 8: 27-40.

What do you think this has to do with the questions about the transferring of holiness and defilement in earlier verses?

**Haggai 2: 18-19**

Why do you think God repeated himself?

How could a defiled people be blessed?

What does God promise going forward?

Who is counteracting the defilement?

**Haggai 2: 20**

When did this message take place?

Notice that it's still on Hanukkah.

## **Haggai 2: 21-22**

Who was this message for?

What was God going to shake this time?

How does that compare to the shaking in Haggai 2: 6-7?

## **Haggai 2: 22**

A signet ring was an engraved ring with the king's seal on it. It carries the weight of divine authority as it officially seals up a proclamation made by the king, thereby making it an official document. In Jewish culture the signet ring is symbolic of the kingly line of David via Judah through which the Messiah would come. (See Genesis 38: 15-18.) However, the line of David had lost the power to rule since God cursed the evil King Coniah.)

Why would Zerubbabel (a descendant of David) be a signet ring?

Note: This did not happen in Zerubbabel's lifetime.

Why did God do this?

Remember Hanukkah is a celebration of the rededication of the temple after it was defiled by a Gentile king. The Maccabees took Jerusalem back by using strong military force. It took the place of the Feast of Tabernacles which couldn't be celebrated at the proper time due to the invasion of the Greeks.

## **Summary**

Haggai's vision foreshadows Hanukkah as it's a rededication of the temple. The Israelites in Haggai's time couldn't celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles because they had no temple, but God assured them of a future glory. The Feast of the Tabernacles celebrates the harvest, but they had no harvest, yet God promised to bless them despite their meager crops and seeds.

God cursed evil King Coniah and threw His signet ring away. The curse of the people of Israel was broken as God promises to reestablish the line of David through Zerubbabel. The tabernacle looks towards a hope of intimacy with God when he will dwell with mankind and peace will reign through his chosen King (Jesus). The people in Haggai's time, like during the time of Maccabee's Hanukkah celebration, rededicated the temple and thus themselves back to God.

In summary Haggai is a book about prioritizing God and about God's glory. Haggai through God called people to repent during the month of Elul and then during the Feast of Tabernacles gave the people

spiritual hope (intimacy with God and peace). Finally on the eve of what would become Hannukah, God gave the people material hope (food) and political hope (military victory and being ruled by God's own people.) Haggai is a book about prioritizing God and resting in His hope knowing that He has the power to shake the heavens and earth to bring forth his kingdom. Come Lord Jesus! Be glorified in our lives!