

Taking Our Bearings

Review

- Israelite people exiled from homes and land by Babylonian Empire for over 70 years
- 539 Babylonian Empire falls to Cyrus the Great signaling the beginning of Medo-Persian empire-In 538 exiles allowed to return to Jerusalem
- 50 000 people return to rebuild temple that has been destroyed, enjoy God's presence with them

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Review

- 18 months spent clearing rubble and preparing foundation for the building
- The altar is up, they have a place to gather, but getting established takes priority in their lives
- 15 Years later Haggai has four messages in four months to people living in ruins with a job yet undone

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Review

God's Wake Up Call:

1. God Issues a Call to Consider

- “give careful thought to your ways”
- says, you are a people unfulfilled, without purpose, unsatisfied because your priorities and perspective are wrong.

2. God Issues a Call To Commence

- desire of God to dwell with them, bless them, be honored in their lives
- calls them to action building the temple

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Recovery From Atrophy

Spiritual Atrophy is a real disease!

1. Practice Obedience and Fear

- Timely and appropriate response to God's call
- Awe and reverence of God he deserves (fear)

2. Acknowledge the Provision of God

- "I am with You" - in a lack of supplies, when we cannot see the way, when circumstances look impossible.
- God will restore passion and vision, we do not have to manufacture it in serving Him.

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Haggai 2:1-9

“On the twenty first day of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai, ‘Speak to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, Who of you is left who saw this house in tis former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? But now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord, Be strong O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong all you people of the land, declares the Lord , and work. For I am with you, declares the Lord Almighty. This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you . Do not fear.

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Haggai 2:1-9

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come and I will fill this house with my glory,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty. ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace.’ declares the Lord Almighty.”

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Two Fixed Positions to Get Our Bearings From:

1. Responsibility of Gods Children
2. Resources of God Gods Children

Responsibility of The Child of God

- Question in vs. 1-3

Ezra 3:12 “And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.”

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Responsibility of The Child of God

- comparison - the deadly game
- Measuring how we are doing compared to others, not God's standard.
- God's message - Be Strong and work
- Acknowledges the human perspective - yet affirms our responsibility to do as He asks

*We are to take our bearings from God and what He has asked of us in his word. We are to be strong, courageous and work in His set direction.

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Responsibility of The Child of God

- Suggestion - Never tell the weak to be strong without giving them the means.
- Gods promise - work for I am with you, I asked you to do it, I will be faithful

Resources of the Child of God

- 6 times in 4 verses, 15 times in 2 chapters
- Phrase - “Lord Almighty” or “Lord of Hosts”
- 49 times in Isaiah or 76 times in Jeremiah

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Resources of the Child of God

God is reaffirming to His chosen 3 Things

1. His Person
2. His Presence
3. His Power

* Take your bearings from this absolute truth - I am the Lord Almighty, my Spirit is with you and I will bring things to pass. You simply need to be strong, courageous and work!

Taking Our Bearings

So What

In the middle of any project - need to consult the plans, take a bearing, chart a straight course.

Two biblical truths to act as fixed points in doing so:

1. Responsibility as A Child of God
 - No Comparison with others
 - Be strong, courageous, and work in God's service

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So What

Two biblical truths to act as fixed points in doing so:

1. Responsibility as A Child of God
2. Resources as A Child of God
 - You belong to the Almighty God of creation, the one who controls all things and is all powerful, and it is him alone you must serve.
 - This same God promises His presence with you in serving and doing. “I am with you” “My spirit remains among you” “I covenanted with you”

Taking Our Bearings

So What

Two biblical truths to act as fixed points in doing so:

1. Responsibility as A Child of God
2. Resources as A Child of God
 - God's power and control assure you efforts will have success in His plans as you serve.