

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Haggai 2:1-9

Sunday, June 8, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why might God have made certain that Haggai recorded the exact dates of when He spoke to Haggai?

Perhaps to show how quickly Haggai, the leaders, and the people obeyed God when they learned what God wanted them to do. Perhaps so they could serve as good examples for later generations and for us about how we should obey God. Perhaps so people in later generations could date exactly when God spoke through Haggai the prophet and when and how God fulfilled His prophecies about the temple in Haggai’s day and later.

2. When the people realized that they could not rebuild the temple to look as beautiful as the former temple, what did God tell them?

God said that He would provide the silver and the gold they would need to finance the rebuilding, and in later generations the temple would be made more beautiful.

3. What reason did God give the leaders and people for taking courage as they obeyed Him and worked on rebuilding the temple?

God said He would be with them and remain with them just as He had been with Moses and the people when they left Egypt.

4. Who owns the world’s silver and gold supply? Does knowing the answer encourage or discourage you? Give a reason for your answer.

The total world’s supply of gold and silver belongs to the LORD of hosts. Knowing the Owner gives me encouragement, because I know that God has the financial resources to enable me to complete whatever He wants me to do, if I do what He wants me to do His way and not a selfish way.

5. Where is God's beautiful temple on earth today?

In those who love Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior: "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

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