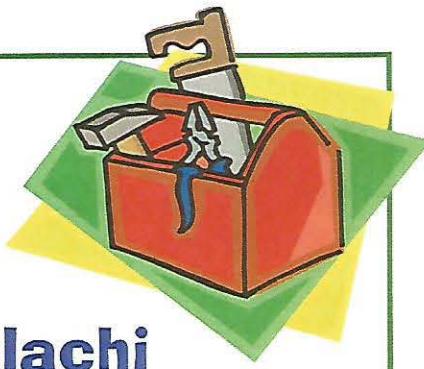


Building Your Life for God



Lesson 12

God's Prophets: Haggai and Malachi

Theme: Faith—Believing God's prophets

Memory Verses

"Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people...and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered 'Amen, Amen!' while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground." Nehemiah 8:5-6

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday	Haggai 1:1-4, 7-12
Friday	Haggai 2:1-9
Saturday	Malachi 1:6-14
Monday	Malachi 2:7-16
Tuesday	Malachi 3:1, 7-10, 13-15; 4:1-6

Remember when Zerubbabel brought the first group of Jews home to Jerusalem and they became discouraged? They laid the foundation to rebuild the temple, but then quit working. God sent prophets to encourage them to follow Him and do their work. One of these prophets was Haggai. Let's see how Haggai encouraged God's people.

Haggai's Message to God's People

Haggai encouraged people to take three important actions:

Think about what you are doing! (Haggai 1:1-15) Haggai told God's people to think. They had returned to Jerusalem

Haggai 1:1-4, 7-12

What kind of houses did people make for themselves while the house of God was still not built?

new houses mud huts tents

Because people were neglecting His house, what had God caused to happen?





Haggai 2:1-9

When the temple was finished, what would be in it?

- lots of people
- statues
- the Lord's glory

What would God do to the heavens and the earth to help His people?

to rebuild the temple, the house of God. But they got discouraged and stopped the temple project. They started building their own houses instead of God's house. Haggai asked people to think about which house was more important.

Be strong! (Haggai 2:1-9) Haggai reminded the people that God would be with them. He had been with them in many ways, and He would still be with them. God would help them build the temple and fill it with glory. Knowing this should help people be strong and full of courage.

Clean up your lives! (Haggai 2:10-23) Being in Jerusalem and having an altar did not make people what they needed to be. People were making sacrifices, but their hearts were not right with God. People were suffering because they were not following God. God sent a message through Haggai that if people would clean up their lives and do right, He would bless them.

Malachi's Message

God sent another prophet named Malachi to His people after Nehemiah and his workers had finished rebuilding the walls. Malachi spoke to God's people about three changes they needed to make:

Shut the gates! (Malachi 1:1-2:9) Malachi spoke to people about not respecting God. Priests were supposed to teach and help people serve God. Instead, they were dishonoring God by the sacrifices they offered. Instead of giving God the best, the priests sacrificed animals which were blind, crippled, and sick. This did not honor God, and He was not pleased.



Malachi 1:6-14

Circle all correct answers.

What kind of sacrifices were the priests offering that did not honor God?

lame best sick stolen perfect

Because people kept offering unfit sacrifices, God wished someone would do what to the doors or gates of the temple?



Malachi 2:7-16

How did Malachi say the priests were hurting instead of helping people?

True or False? As long as men offered sacrifices, it did not matter how they treated their wives.

Malachi said, "You might as well shut the temple doors!" (Malachi 1:10) God meant it would be better to make no sacrifices than to make these bad sacrifices.

I hate divorce! (Malachi 2:10-17)

God wants a husband and wife to stay together and work out whatever problems they have. When a man and woman get married, they make promises to love each other and stay together always.

In Malachi's day, people were

deciding not to be married any longer. Husbands were divorcing their wives, but this is not God's way. God is not pleased when people divorce.

You are robbing Me! (Malachi 3:1-4:6) God gave His people many, many things. He also wanted them to give to Him to support the temple and priests.

When people didn't give, they were robbing God. They were taking what really belonged to Him. God explained that if they honored Him by giving as He commanded, He would give them many, many blessings.



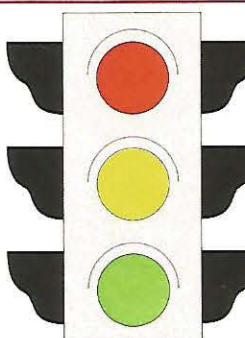
Malachi 3:1, 7-10, 13-15; 4:1-6

To help bring people's hearts to Him, God planned to send someone like the prophet _____.

Who should be generous and share?

- rich people
- everyone
- elders and deacons

I show respect for God.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

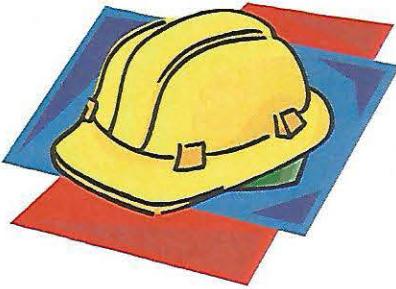
Red — rarely

Yellow — sometimes

Green — always

Think About It ...

Haggai's message was 1) Think about what you are doing, 2) Be strong, and 3) Clean up your lives. Which of these do you need to listen to the most and work on in your life? Why?



Nail Down the Bible Facts

Write from memory Galatians 5:22-23.

Which book of the Old Testament is about a Jewish queen rescuing her people?

On a map inside the back cover, study the general location of Israel's enemies—Edom, Ammon, Moab, Philistia, and Assyria/Babylon/Persia. Be ready to show these locations on a blank map.