

**Oxford Baptist Church – Nov 19, 2023 – Robin W. Pifer
Haggai – “The Blessings of God” – Haggai 2:10-19**

Review and Introduction

- Haggai asks two crucial questions for the priests:

Does Holiness Happen By Contact? | v.12

- No – Holy Meat, Religious traditions or rituals, church attendance, family denomination.
- Principle: Holiness does not come by contact or function
- True Spirituality is through faith alone in the finished work of Jesus Christ, resulting in Walking through the power of the Spirit in obedience and submission to God Our Father’s plan.
- Matt 15:8-9, 16-20 – Honoured God by their lips, but their hearts and actions have taken a vacation away from God.

Does Sinful Defilement Happen By Contact | v.13-14

- Yes
- Clean things and Unholy Things. 1Cor 10:21- 22, 31; 2Cor 6:15
- We live in a wicked world, and sin spreads like cancer.
- The Defilement of the Heart defiles the work of our hands.
- Holiness takes Transformation through Christ and time to grow.
- The unclean Hand of the Nation of Israel

You Did Not Turn To Me | v.15-18

- Discipline of God.
- Principle: The Purpose of the Lord’s Disciple is Transformation and restoration.
- The Prodigal Son – Plenty in his father’s house.
- Obedience brings blessings; Disobedience brings discipline. Hebrews 12:4-9, 10-13
- Consider from this day... The Foundation was Built, and now the Temple was being constructed

Nothing Has Yielded Its Fruit Yet | v.19

- Principle: Great Faithfulness produces great fruitfulness over time.
- Blessing starts growing after obedience.
- Present obedience brings future blessings.
- Great Faithfulness produces great fruitfulness.
- A long obedience.
- But from this day on, I will bless you.
- Holiness brings the Blessings of God.

Questions for Personal and Group Study

- 1) Why would Holiness benefit the people of God in building the temple?
- 2) What was holding the people of God back from experiencing the more incredible blessing of God?
- 3) Many people say they are spiritual. Why does the bolded definition point to our spiritual life in Jesus Christ?
- 4) Holiness begins with initial sanctification (positional), and then we are on a daily journey of growing in Holiness (progressive sanctification). How is this understanding illustrated for us in the passage?
- 5) Why is discipline so important in our Christian lives? Take time to read Hebrews 12:4-13 (verses 10-11). What is God’s ultimate purpose in disciplining us?
- 6) After the people of God repent and return to God, there are still consequences for this previous disobedience. What are the implications for us today?
- 7) Why does God want daily faithfulness or a “long obedience” from us, rather than the “quick fix obedience” we are hoping for instant blessing?
- 8) of God’s glory for us? John 14:27