

SERMON NOTES 30 November 2025

Sunnyside Church

Questions for Discussion

Read the whole of Haggai

1. What do you think was the prophets main message
 - speaking to the present situation
 - looking to the future
 - telling them “to change their ways”
2. The temple in Jerusalem dominated the city. What message does this convey to you about God and his people? What are the strengths and weaknesses of having “holy” buildings?.
3. A significant number of people of Haggai’s day would have remembered the old Temple and all it’s glories. What is helpful about learning from the past and what are it’s limitations?
Will make you like
4. “Holiness is not contagious, uncleanness is” How can we be aware of what is rotten?
5. A seal from a “signet ring” is a sign of approval from an authority. In the last verse 2:23 God declares “I have chosen you”. What does it mean “to be chosen” and what responsibilities does this bring

A Prayer for Advent

Lord make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord, that when he shall appear he may find us not sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise, for the glory of your holy name, Amen,

Main points of the sermon

Today is Advent Sunday when we prepare for the coming of the Lord. The prophet Haggai has a message for us

The people were saying it’s not time to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. It had been destroyed some 70 years earlier .

The Temple was in ruins and the peoples energies were spent on their own houses. Haggai warned that the poor harvests were a sign of their priorities. God would send a drought on their land. As a result they began to work on the temple.

Today’s reading begins with a complicated argument about holiness. They can easily become defiled, but not always. There are hazards for us on our journey, but we can like the people of Haggai’s day be rewarded. “Give careful thought to your ways” “From this day I will bless you”

God’s message was “I will make you like my signet ring” A signet ring is a pledge of full payment.

Haggai closes with the words from the Lord Almighty “I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you”.

John Kirkby