

**Haggai 1:1-15**  
**Sunday, 11th February '24**

- **Loving his people**

- **Declaring his praises**

**2. Return to the Lord, vv12-15**

v12

vv13-15

**Intro**

**The book of Haggai**

v5

v7

“seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33)

**1. Rethink your priorities, vv1-11**

v1

v2

Ezra 4:4-6, 18-24...

“One of the most disorienting things for many Christians in the West today is finding that they’re on the moral low ground in the eyes of their non-Christian friends and neighbours. In previous generations, Christians tended to be recognised as on the moral high ground. Maybe they were seen as unattractively judgmental. But it was typical for those who didn’t go to church to think of those who did as morally superior. Today, that ground has shifted. Christians are more likely to be seen as morally inferior. Especially when it comes to sexual ethics, gender identity, and abortion, those who hold to scriptural beliefs about male-female marriage, the givenness of biological sex, and the right to life of unborn babies are seen by many as morally repugnant... What’s more, the growing recognition of the ways in which churches have historically been guilty of a range of sinful practices... has led to an increasing sense that Christians are the antiheroes in our culture. When we stand for Christian sexual ethics today, we’re seen as taking an absurd, unloving, and ultimately futile stand on the wrong side of history.”

(Rebecca McLaughlin, No Greater Love)

vv3-4

“This is a common problem during the difficult times of our lives. We find it easy to withdraw from serving God and serving others, claiming that we need all our resources to meet our own requirements. The difficulty of life becomes an excuse for centering our existence on ourselves. We take the gifts and resources that we do have and hoard for ourselves the very things that might be used in the Lord’s service and in service of others.” (Iain Duguid & Matthew Harmon, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi, p.52)

vv5-6

‘You made us for yourself

And our hearts are restless until we find our rest in you’

(St Augustine)

vv7-11

The temple was

- the place of glory
- the place of sacrifice

vv7-8

- Jesus Christ

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes...”

(Matthew 6:25)