

September 5, 2021
The Upward Challenge: Haggai:
Haggai 1:3-12
The Challenge of Fruitless Prosperity

Inward work is empty work (1:3-6).

“Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, ‘Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?’” (Haggai 1:3, 4).

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:1-3).

The principal of first things (1:7-11)

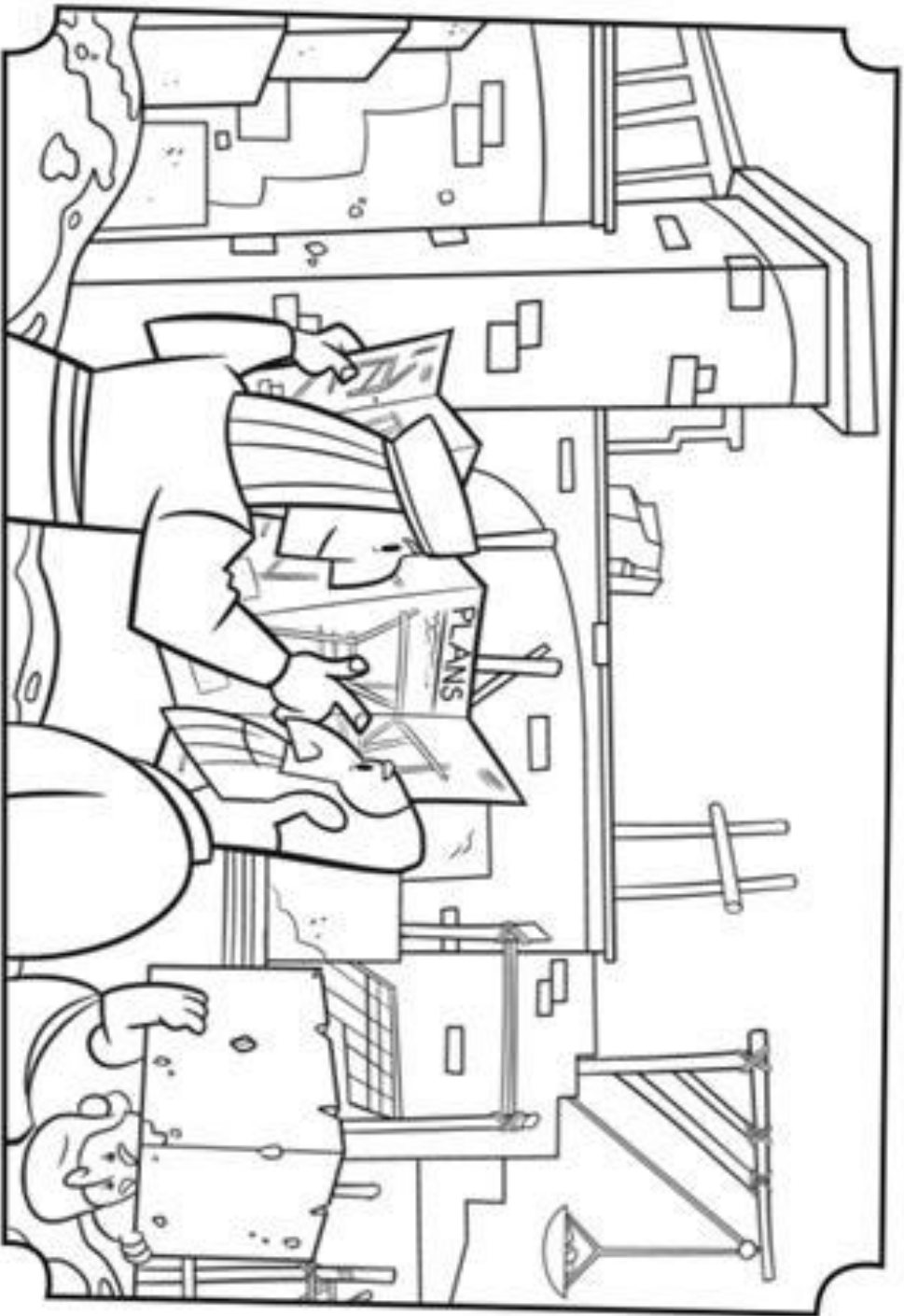
“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Consider your ways...You looked for much, and behold, it came to little...Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house’” (Haggai 1:7, 9).

“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:21-24).

The only meaningful response in an age of meaninglessness (1:12)

“Then...the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD” (Haggai 1:12).

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock...” (Matthew 7:24-27).



Jeshua and Zerubbabel led the Israelites to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem,
which was finished in 516 B.C. - **Ezra 3**