

▼ **Build The Lord's House**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday December 7, 2025

© 2025 Life Church Ministries, Inc.

<http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/>

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are going to explore Haggai 1.
- We will have Q&A / Discussion after the message followed by Sunday Connection.

▼ **Thoughts**

▼ **Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:**

- The apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer

▼ **Overview**

▼ **In today's message we will do the following:**

▼ **Why are we here?**

- Acts 2:36-39
- Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage - Haggai 1.
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Q&A / Discussion, then Sunday Connection.

▼ Opening Material

▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:29-39 - Spoken to Jews

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

- Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles

“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**”

▼ Feed on the Life of Jesus

- Are you “worded up”?
- Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17
- Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

▼ What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in January (1/1 – 1/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in February (2/1 – 2/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in March (3/1 – 3/24)

▼ For December this means:

- Read John 6 on December 6 (yesterday).
- Read John 7 on December 7 (today).
- Read John 8 on December 8 (tomorrow).
- etc.
- **As you read, write down any questions you have.**

▼ **Ask yourself the following questions:**

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ **Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:**

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ **Video:**

- [Bible Project: Haggai](#) - (00:05:37)

▼ **Haggai 1**

In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest:

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD'S house.' "

Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD. “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”

Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.

Then Haggai, the LORD’S messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: “I am with you,” declares the LORD. So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

In the second year of King Darius,

▼ Narrative

- During the reign of Darius, God’s Word comes through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel and to Joshua.
- God notes that the people are saying it’s not yet time to rebuild the lord’s house.
- God asks if it’s time for them to live in their paneled houses while his house remains a ruin.
- God points out that their efforts to build up their own households are failing.
- God tells them to put their effort into getting timber to build his house.
- God wants them to recognize that he has kept their efforts to build personal wealth from bearing fruit.
- The people obey and begin working on rebuilding the Temple.

▼ Observations

- It has been several years since the exiles returned from Babylon, but the Temple is still in ruins from it’s destruction almost 70 years ago.
- God speaks through a prophet to both the governor and the high priest.

▼ Lessons

- Put God’s Kingdom first!

► Discussions, Q&A



Build The Lord's House

Sunday December 7, 2025



Welcome!



Visitor Page

Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
The QR code (also available on our song sheets)
links to our Visitor Landing Page.

Use it to access our notes, share your contact
information, and access our giving page.

Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you
deserve to get answers!

Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG

We are going to explore Haggai 1.

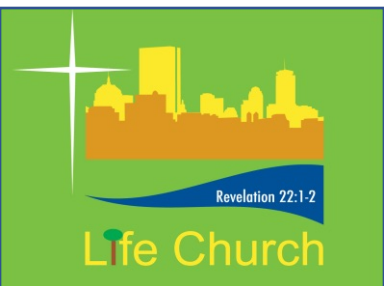
We will have Q&A / Discussion after the message
followed by Sunday Connection.



Thoughts



- Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:
 - the apostles' teaching
 - fellowship
 - the breaking of bread
 - Prayer



Overview



In today's message we will deal with the following:

- Why are we here?
 - Acts 2:36-39
 - Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage – Haggai 1.
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Q&A / Discussion followed by Sunday Connection.



Why are we here?



Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews

Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles



Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (1 of 3)

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.



Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (2 of 3)

For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.” ’



Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (3 of 3)

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.”



Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles

“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**”



Embrace Jesus' Mission: Luke 4:14-21

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

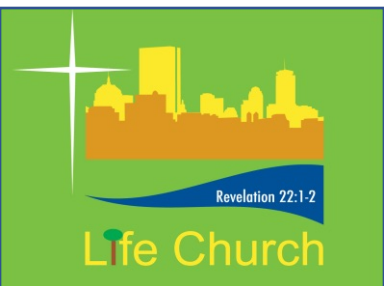
Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in January (1/1 - 1/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in February (2/1 – 2/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in March (3/1 – 3/24)



Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)

For December this means:

- Read John 6 on December 6 (yesterday).
- Read John 7 on December 7 (today).
- Read John 8 on December 8 (tomorrow).

- etc.



Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)

As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?



Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)

Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!



Bible Project: Haggai





Haggai 1:1-15a (NIV) 1 of 3

In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest:

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’S house.’”

Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin? ”

Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”



Haggai 1:1-15a (NIV) 2 of 3

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD. “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands. ”



Haggai 1:1-15a (NIV) 3 of 3

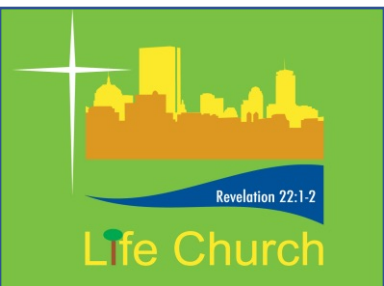
Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.

Then Haggai, the LORD'S messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: "I am with you," declares the LORD. So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.



Narrative

- During the reign of Darius, God's Word comes through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel and to Joshua.
- God notes that the people are saying it's not yet time to rebuild the lord's house.
- God asks if it's time for them to live in their paneled houses while his house remains a ruin.
- God points out that their efforts to build up their own households are failing.
- God tells them to put their effort into getting timber to build his house.
- God wants them to recognize that he has kept their efforts to build personal wealth from bearing fruit.
- The people obey and begin working on rebuilding the Temple.



Observations

- It has been several years since the exiles returned from Babylon, but the Temple is still in ruins from its destruction almost 70 years ago.
- God speaks through a prophet to both the governor and the high priest.



Lessons



- Put God's Kingdom first!



Q&A / Discussion





Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service (Communion) December 7, 2025
- Sunday Connection December 7, 2025 12pm - 2pm
- Sunday Service December 14, 2025
- Sunday Service December 21, 2025
- No Men's Bible Study Wed (12/24) - Christmas Eve
- Sunday Service December 28, 2025
- No Men's Bible Study Wed (12/31) - New Years' Eve
- Watch Night Fellowship December 31, 2025



Q&A / Discussion

