

**The Good Old Days**  
**October 19, 2008**  
Haggai 2:1-9  
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Synopsis:

“Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away”

It’s easy to look to yesterday with longing. But looking back at the good old days isn’t a helpful strategy. Today we engage the solution to nostalgia for the good old days.

Here it is:

When we realize that God: creator, redeemer, and lord is with us *now*, we take courage and work. We pledge our money and selves because we can’t lose.

I.

**Hard Times**

Haggai 2:3 Is it not in your sight as nothing?

A Hard Fall:

University of Tenn stinks (34-3 yeah!)

Angels lost

Stock market caving

Election season

\*Guess I’ll go eat worms!

Hard Times push us to look back:

Big band era, swing music in Catalina

Orange groves in Orange County

When you and I were young, Maggie!

Fall 2001 took Hal to NYC, saw twin towers

\*I wish we could go back!

\*Nostalgia for the good old days!

## II.

### **Hard Times and Nostalgia**

Haggai 2:3 Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory?

#### There was nostalgia in Judah: Recap

Where? Judah in south

Who?

Darius the Persian king

Haggai the prophet (also Zechariah)

Zerubbabel the governor

Joshua the high priest

People/remnant (pun vv2-3 remnant/left)

When?

587 BC Jerusalem destroyed

538 BC Cyrus decree (Ezra 1:1-4)

520 BC, 18 years after return from exile

FEAR-FAITH-FINANCES

\*READ Haggai 2:1

-started to work, almost one month later (READ 1:15)

-started to think, look back

\*READ Haggai 2:2-3

-67 years ago (587-520) temple was destroyed

-no one saw the former temple, at best 10 years old

-Fantasy/Nostalgia discouraged them

E.g. 4247 Valencia Road

-our old house

-looked so big

\*Nostalgia discourages us

-Not like it used to be in the USA (Christendom crashed)

-Not like it used to be at Geneva (Members declined)

-Not like I used to be: feet, belly, troubles

-If we could just go back to the good old days!

#### IV.

### **The Answer to Hard Times Then**

Haggai 2:4 Take courage . . . for I am with you

What's the answer to looking back during hard times?

Replies:

1. Buck up! READ Haggai 2:4a Take Courage (drop 4b)

-Don't you hate people who tell you to buck up?

Why take courage?

2. God is with you. READ Haggai 2:4-9

Notice: present not past

4b I am with you NOW

5 My Spirit abides among you NOW

\*God is present NOW

Notice: present not past

8x says the Lord/Lord of Hosts (READ)

\*God speaks NOW

Notice: past *as* present

3 examples from their past:

Redeemer READ v5 = Egypt

Creator READ v6 = Gen 1

Lord READ v7 = Solomon

\*God redeems, creates, is Lord NOW

They took courage, offered money and selves to God's work

V.

**The Answer to Hard Times Now**

Haggai 2:9 In this place I will give prosperity

It's been a Hard Fall

What's the answer to Hard Times NOW?

-God is with us NOW

-God speaks NOW

-God is Redeemer, Creator, and Lord NOW

\*Our response is to take courage, commit, and connect