

Questions for Further Reflection – Zephaniah:

1. What place does judgment have in our lives? When do we usually forget about redemption? When do we usually forget about judgment? Which one are you most likely to focus on – God’s judgment or God’s redemption?
2. Name the denominations you think focus mainly on God’s judgment. Name the denominations you think focus mainly on God’s redemption? Name the denominations you think find a good balance between the two. What happens when too much focus is on one and not the other?
3. In an “age of rebellion” how do we balance our prophetic message so the world can hear it? How can we invite people to participate in redemption, rather than rebellion and judgment?

Questions for Further Reflection – Haggai:

1. List your top 10 priorities in life. Narrow your list down to your top 5. Now choose your top 3. Your top 2. Your #1 priority. See how easy it is for God *not* to be at the center of our lives? Yet that is what he desires to be. Read Matthew 6:25-34. What does this passage say about what happens when we make the kingdom of God our first priority? What do you need to do to make Christ the center of your life?
2. Have you ever thought about Haggai’s challenge to the people – you live in nice houses yet you neglect the Lord’s house. What is an equivalent of this today? When we make God a priority, what does that mean for how we support the church’s ministry with our time, talents, and treasures? What does this mean for how we prioritize our spending and our giving?
3. Haggai doesn’t promise personal prosperity, but community prosperity. Read Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37 to see what this looks like in action. What do you notice about a community that has put God at the center of their lives? How is this type of community different than most that we see today?
4. The Israelites had much in common with people in America today: people worried about getting what they can for themselves, looking out only for #1, not being concerned about the welfare of others as long as their own family is taken care of, the wealthy getting wealthier at the expense of the poor, etc. How would you answer the Lord’s question through Haggai – how’s that working out for you?