

STEP INTO SCRIPTURE

WEEK 13: SMALL STEPS GOD MULTIPLIES

QUARTER 3: SOUNDS

STEP INTO SCRIPTURE



STEP INTO SCRIPTURE

THIS WEEK'S READING:

WED, NOV 5 ZECHARIAH 10-14

THU, NOV 6 ESTHER 1-5

FRI, NOV 7 ESTHER 6-10

SAT, NOV 8 EZRA 7-10

SUN, NOV 9 NEHEMIAH 1-5

MON, NOV 10 NEHEMIAH 6-7

TUE, NOV 11 NEHEMIAH 8-10 & NEHEMIAH 11-13; PSALM 126

WED, NOV 12 MALACHI 1-4

**30 minutes for arrival, fellowship,
and reading**

30 minutes for teaching

**30 minutes for table discussion and
announcements**

TODAY'S READING:

ZECHARIAH 10-14

DAY 265 IN STEP INTO SCRIPTURE

“Give careful thought to your ways” (Hag 1:5, 7).

Key People & Roles In This Week's Reading

Haggai — Prophet (520 BC) whose short, pointed sermons restart the stalled work, calling the people to “give careful thought to your ways” (Hag 1–2; Ezra 5:1; 6:14).

Key People & Roles In This Week's Reading

Zechariah — Prophet (520–518 BC), priestly background; offers visions and encouragement: “Not by might... but by my Spirit” and God’s joy over small beginnings (Zech 1–6; Ezra 5:1; 6:14).

Key People & Roles In This Week's Reading

Ezra — Priest-scribe and later leader of a subsequent return (458 BC). He compiles the narrative; In Ezra 3–6 he is not yet on the scene, but his book records Zerubbabel/Joshua's rebuild and the ministry of Haggai and Zechariah (Ezra 5–6).

Key People & Roles In This Week's Reading

The Remnant — The returned community preserved by God through exile—a small but faithful people who respond to the word, fear the Lord, and resume the work (called “the remnant” in Hag 1:12, 14; 2:2). Numbered in Ezra's lists at about 42,360 plus servants/singers (Ezra 2:64–65).

Key People & Roles In This Week's Reading

Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel — Governor of Judah, descendant of David; civil leader of the first return from exile and the temple rebuild (Ezra 2:2; 3:2; 5:2; Hag 1:1; Zech 4:6–10).

Key People & Roles In This Week's Reading

Joshua (Jeshua) son of Jozadak — High priest who partners with Zerubbabel; represents spiritual leadership during the rebuild (Ezra 3:2; 5:2; Hag 1:1, 12, 14; Zech 3:1–5).

In Hebrew, Joshua (often Jeshua) is Yeshu'a—the same name rendered Iēsous in Greek, Jesus in our New Testament (cf. Matt 1:21). Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the Lord saves.

HAGGAI 1:2

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

EZRA 4:4-5

Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building. They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia.

HAGGAI 1:4

“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”

**“We’ll get back to the Lord’s work
when life settles down.”**

**Ezra names the stall;
Haggai names the heart behind the stall;
Zechariah names the power that overcomes it:**

**“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’
says the Lord Almighty” (Zechariah 4:6).**

“Give careful thought to your ways” (Haggai 1:5, 7).

Stop the blur. Look at the outcomes.

HAGGAI 1:6

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.”

“By their fruit you will recognize them.” (Matt 7:16, 20)

**“test everything; hold on to what is good”
(1 Thessalonians 5:21)**

**“consider the outcome of their way of life”
(Hebrews 13:7)**

Jesus directs our discernment: good trees bear good fruit. If the fruit is repentance, restoration, mission, mercy, and multigenerational life—that is where the Lord is at work.

HAGGAI 1:9

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.”

**Provision is not the reward of self-priority;
It is the fruit of God-first living.**

**“Return to me,’ declares the Lord Almighty,
‘and I will return to you.’” (Zechariah 1:3).**

**What would it look like to make God's pleasure
and honor the true north of my decisions?**

HAGGAI 1:8

“Go up Into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure In It and be honored.”

“I always do what pleases him.” (John 8:29)

“Father, glorify your name!” (John 12:28)

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-17

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

(See also Ephesians 2:19-22.)

EZRA 5:1-2

Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.

Word → Work → “Witness.”

ZECHARIAH 4:6-7

So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of “God bless It! God bless It!””

ZECHARIAH 4:8-9

Then the word of the Lord came to me: ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.’”

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

ZECHARIAH 4:10

Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the Lord that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?

“the seven eyes of the Lord” - the Spirit of the Lord and His all-seeing, all-present awareness

March 24, 2018



God's Spirit empowers the start, levels obstacles, multiplies our offering, and secures the finish—to His glory in the church (Ephesians 3:21).

For us, “bring down timber” (Haggai 1:8) looks like aligning our time, talent, and treasure.

ADVANCE COMMITMENT NIGHT

NOVEMBER 7 @6:30PM | BE A GAME CHANGER

HAGGAI 1:12-13

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.

HAGGAI 1:14

“So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel... Joshua... and the whole remnant... They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty.”

ZECHARIAH 4:6-7

So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty. “What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of ‘God bless It! God bless It!’”

Don't negotiate God's priorities into "later." There will never be a perfectly convenient season to put His work first. But there is always grace to start today.

Consider your ways. If your efforts feel thin, if your “purse” keeps leaking, let that holy dissatisfaction lead you back to the joy of God-first living.

Hands to the Work

Haggai 2:4 — “Be strong... and work. For I am with you,” declares the Lord.

Haggai 1:8 — “Go up... bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored.”

Haggai 1:14 — “So the Lord stirred up the spirit... and they came and began to work on the house of the Lord.”

Hearts Stirred by His Presence

Haggai 1:13 — “I am with you, declares the Lord.”

Haggai 2:4–5 — “I am with you... My Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.”

Haggai 1:14 — “The Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel... Joshua... and the whole remnant...”

Commitments that Declare: “Your house, Your honor, Your mission—first.”

Haggai 1:7–8 — “Give careful thought to your ways... build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored.”

Haggai 1:9 — “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.”

Haggai 1:12 — “Then the whole remnant obeyed the voice of the Lord... and the people feared the Lord.”

“Is it a time for you to live in paneled houses while this house lies in ruins?” (Hag 1:4).

Jesus frames it: store treasure in heaven (Matt 6:19–21).

Our Response

- 1. Pray: “Lord, show me where I’m washing rental cars. Reorder my loves. Your house, Your honor, Your mission—first.”**
- 2. Take one obedient step—time, talent, treasure. Trust God for the capstone (Zech 4:7,10).**
- 3. Bring your ‘yes’ to Advance Commitment Night.**