I. The Background of Haggai takes us to Zechariah and to Ezra.

A. Ezra takes us to Jeremiah.

B. The **Plan**, the **Power**, the **Priorities** and the **Presence** of God are declared.

C. The role God plays in human events is crystal clear.

II. A repeated phrase of Haggai’s is, “Give careful thought to your ways.”

A. 50,000 Jews returned to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem.

B. **Obstacles**, **Opposition**, and **Obligations** had confused their priorities.

C. Our minds can easily be captivated.

D. The reality of the great redemptive drama in which we live can be diminished when we need to get a roof over our heads and our businesses up and running.

III. The Steps to Setting Priorities are stated in Haggai.

A. Give careful thought to our ways.

B. Affirm the revealed plan of God to sort through what really matters.

C. Affirm the presence of God and define success accordingly.

D. Get to work.

E. Gain courage and energy in reviewing the past and knowing that He Who **was**–**is**.

IV. The title used for God is, “The Lord Almighty,” aka, “The Lord of Hosts.”

A. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** Praise to the Lord,  The Almighty, The King of creation! O my soul, praise Him,  For He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; Praise Him in glad adoration.  **2.** Praise to the Lord,  Who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,  Shelters thee under His wings,  Yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen How their desires e’er have been  Granted in what He ordaineth? | **3.** Praise to the Lord,  Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; Surely His goodness and mercy  Here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, If with His love He befriend thee.  **4.** Praise to the Lord,  O let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath,  Come now with praises before Him. Let the Amen sound from His people again, Gladly for aye we adore Him. |