



**Sermon Title: “*From This Day On*”**

**By: Rev. James M. Armpriester, Jr.**

**Text:** Haggai 2:10–19

**Big Idea:** Sin contaminates easily; holiness doesn’t transfer automatically—but Jesus makes the unclean clean. When we realign with Him, God says, “*From this day on, I will bless you.*”

## Background

- God promised **70 years of exile in Babylon** (Jeremiah 29:10).
  - **538 BC** – Cyrus decrees return; Zerubbabel leads; Temple foundation laid.
  - Returned exiles **initiated the Temple but later abandoned it** (Haggai 1:4).
    - **Temple Sacrifices – Drawing Near by Blood**
    - **Hebrew verb for sacrifice:** *qarav* (קרַב) = (to draw near.” The noun *korban* (קָרְבָּן, offering/sacrifice) literally means “a thing brought near.”
    - Every offering (Leviticus 1–7) expressed this principle: sinful, distant humans could “draw near” to a holy God through a blood substitute.
    - The Temple was the “house of meeting,” where God dwelt among His people (Exod 25:8), and the altar was the meeting point of blood, forgiveness, and presence.
- **520–516 BC** – Haggai and Zechariah; Temple finished under Darius. (Haggai 1:15). • Now God draws a **line in the sand**: “*From this day on, I will bless you.*”

## Point 1 — Holiness vs. Defilement (Haggai 2:11–14)

**Text:** *“If someone carries holy meat... does it become holy? ... No. ... If someone unclean touches it, it becomes unclean.”*

- **Law foundation** (Lev. 6:27; Num. 19:22)
  - Holiness **does not transfer** by proximity.
  - Defilement **does spread**.
- **Plain truth:** Being near holy things doesn’t make me holy. Hidden sin spreads.

## Point 2 — The Lean Years (Haggai 2:15–17)

**Text:** *“When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten... I struck you... yet you did not turn to me.”*

- **Covenant backdrop:** Discipline promised (Deut. 28:22).
- **Plain truth:** God resisted their misaligned labor. Priorities were wrong.
- **Reminder:** *“To obey is better than sacrifice.”* (1 Sam. 15:22)

## Point 3 — The Turning Point (Haggai 2:18–19) **Text:**

*“Consider... Is the seed yet in the barn? ... From this day on I will bless you.”*

- **Plain truth:** Obedience brings blessing **before fruit appears**.
- **Christ connection:**
  - Jesus touches the unclean and makes them whole (Mark 1:41–42; Luke 7:14–15).
  - Jesus is the true Temple and Cornerstone (John 2:19–21; Eph. 2:20).
  - His blood cleanses completely (1 John 1:7).
- **Kingdom horizon:** God shakes what can be shaken—only the unshakable remains (Heb. 12:26–28).
- **Application:** Today can be our “24th day”:
  - **Realign** (repent)
  - **Reorder** (prioritize)
  - **Respond** (mission/obedience)

## Conclusion — Our Declaration

- **Truth to carry home:** Holiness doesn't spread by proximity. Sin contaminates fast. But **Jesus makes the unclean clean.**
- **God's word:** *"From this day on I will bless you."* (Haggai 2:19)
- **Call & Response:**
  - Pastor: *"From this day—"*
  - Church: *"—God will bless!"*

## Reflection & Application

1. Where is compromise spreading in my life?
2. How has God used "lean years" to call me back to Him?
3. What one act of obedience will I commit to this week?
4. How does Jesus' cleansing power give me confidence to move forward?