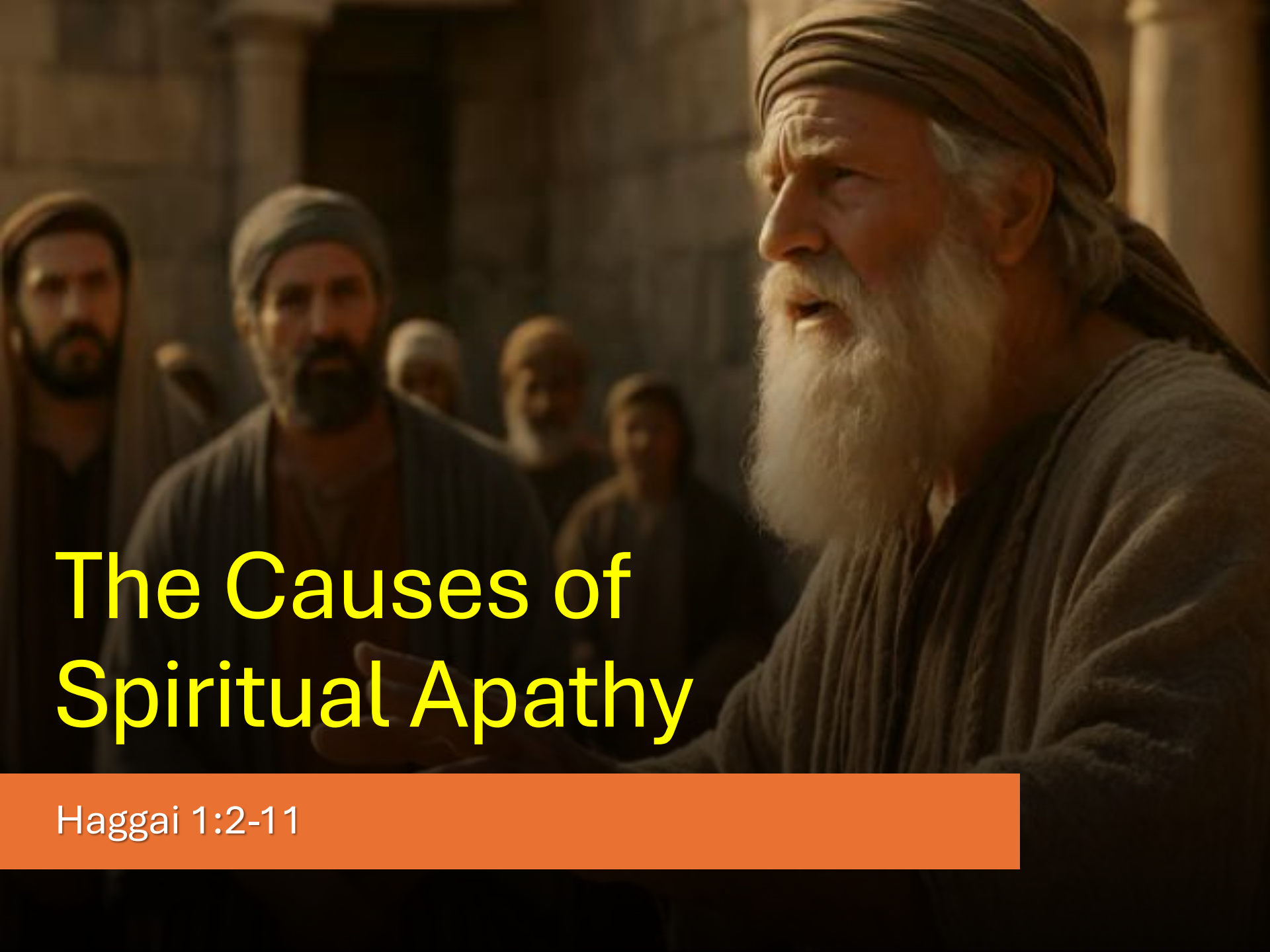


A religious scene with a prophet and a crowd. In the foreground, a man with a long white beard and a brown turban is speaking, gesturing with his right hand. He is wearing a brown robe. In the background, a group of men, some with beards and turbans, are looking towards him. The setting appears to be an ancient building with stone walls and columns. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

The Causes of Spiritual Apathy

Haggai 1:2-11

Self-Centeredness

- God's people were overcome with a spirit of self-centeredness.
- They had little concern for the house of God, because they were too concerned about their own houses.
- The people put themselves first and God second spawning a spirit of apathy toward God's work.
- Self-centeredness is one of the chief causes of spiritual apathy within the Church today.

Worldly-Mindedness

- Cedar wood paneling was a sign of luxury.
- Cedar wood paneling was evidence of their materialistic, worldly-minded outlook on life.
- The people were so concerned about earthly things that they became increasingly indifferent to spiritual things.
- God condemned the people's sinful materialistic, worldly-minded and self-centered attitude.

Ungratefulness

- The people were ungrateful.
- With the passage of time, the people's sense of gratitude had diminished which was reflected in their lack of commitment to the work of God.
- The people's sense of gratitude to God for all that He had done became dull with the passing of the years.
- They became like the Church at Ephesus of whom it was said '*you have left your first love.*'

Conclusion

- Has our sense of gratitude to God for what He has done diminished?
- We need to focus on the One who was wounded for our transgressions and pierced for our iniquities.
- Jesus gave His all for us.
- We need to focus on this truth until our spiritual apathy is replaced by a renewed spiritual fervor.

