

## Haggai

- Post-exilic prophet. Book dated by a pagan king (1:1 “In the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Darius” – and history records that this is Darius Hystaspes of Persia (ca. 521-486 B.C.).
  - Haggai is a contemporary with Daniel
  - Haggai: “festive one”
  - Context: after the return of the exiles back to Jerusalem.
  - About 50,000 had returned.
- a. Outline / The Literary Structure
1. God Calls the People to Right Priorities (1:1-2:19)
  2. God’s Promises the People of Future Messianic Reign (2:20-23)

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<sup>1</sup> Notes prepared with help of The Master’s Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

Aug. 29, 520 B.C.	Sept. 21, 520 B.C.	Oct. 17, 520 B.C.	Dec. 18, 520 B.C.	Dec. 18, 520 B.C.
Rebuke for not Building the Temple  1:1	Response: Renewed Work on the Temple  1:12	Reassurance: The Coming Glory  2:1 (3 more oracles)	Rebuke for Uncleanness  2:10	The Reign of the Future King  2:20

b. Major Themes

1) The Temple (1:2, 4, 8-9, 14; 2:3, 7, 9, 15, 18)

- The Jews returned about 536 B.C. and began rebuilding the temple.
- The foundation of the temple had been restored, but there was much left to do.

1:2-11 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘This people says, ‘The time has not come, *even* the time for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt.’ ” <sup>3</sup> Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, <sup>4</sup> “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house *lies* desolate?” <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, “Consider your ways! <sup>6</sup> “You have sown much, but harvest little; *you* eat, but *there is not enough* to be satisfied; *you* drink, but *there is not enough* to become drunk; *you* put on clothing, but no one is warm *enough*; and he who earns, earns wages *to put* into a purse with holes.” <sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Consider your ways! <sup>8</sup> “Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified,” says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> “You look for much, but behold, *it comes* to little; when you bring *it* home, I blow it *away*. Why?” declares the LORD of hosts, “Because of My house which *lies* desolate, while each of you runs to his own house. <sup>10</sup> “Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce. <sup>11</sup> “I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands.”

✠ It's been about 16 years since they worked on the temple.

2) The Call to Consider (1:5, 7; 2:15, 23)

- “Consider your ways!” – diligently set one’s heart towards something.
- Spiritual indifference and stagnancy.

1:5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, “Consider your ways!”

1:7 Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Consider your ways!

- 2:4-5 → “for I am with you”

2:4-5 ‘But now take courage, Zerubbabel,’ declares the LORD, ‘take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the LORD of hosts. <sup>5</sup> ‘As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!’

3) The Promise of Future Blessing (2:9, 20-23)

2:9 ‘The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘and in this place I will give peace,’ declares the LORD of hosts.”

- One premil commentator: “In addition, the ultimate fulfillment of this greater glory will be in the millennial temple.” (BKC, 1:1542).

- Dr. Kieth Essex: This is not the second temple, but the final, great temple in Ezekiel 40-42 (Millennial Temple)

Haggai 2:20-23 Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth *day* of the month, saying, <sup>21</sup> "Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, 'I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. <sup>22</sup> 'I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.' <sup>23</sup> 'On that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like a signet *ring*, for I have chosen you,' " declares the LORD of hosts.

- Zerubbabel: governor of Judah
- V. 22 - "overthrow the nations" - looking forward to the Millennial return of Christ, when he conquers the nations; a common theme in OT (cf. Ps 2:8-9, Dan 7:27, Rev 19:15).

Psalm 2:8-9 "' Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.' "

Daniel 7:27 "Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him."

Revelation 19:15 "From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty."

- A Millennial Kingdom promise
  
  - “I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you” (v. 23): –  
“signet ring”: symbol of the authority, royalty, & honor of a king; used  
to give official authentication on letters.
  
  - Zerubbabel’s grandfather was King Jehoiachin of Judah (Jer 22:24). God  
removed and cursed him. Likely, God renews the line and restores it in  
this promise to Zerubbabel, the Davidic line, which would culminate in  
Christ.
- c. Purpose: The challenge was presented to the leaders and people to  
rebuild the temple, while looking forward to the glory of the future  
kingdom.
- d. Bibliography:
- 1) (premil?) Taylor & Clendenen, *Haggai, Malachi: An Exegetical and  
Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture (Volume 21)*, The New  
American Commentary
  - 2) (premil) John MacArthur, *Zechariah, Haggai, and Malachi: A Call to  
Rebuild*, MacArthur Bible Studies
  - 3) (amil?) Verhoef, *The Books of Haggai & Malachi*, NICOT