

# Old Testament Survey

Haggai

# I. Background

## **Who is Haggai?**

→ Not much is known about Haggai's life. Zacheriah, Ezra, and Nehemiah are books written in the same historical period of return from Babylonian exile.

**When did Haggai prophesy?** → 520 BC

## **Where did Haggai Prophesy?**

→ In Israel to the returning Babylonian exiles.

## **Why did Haggai Prophesy?**

→ God's people were disobediant.

## **What was Haggai's message?**

→ Four messages delivered between the sixth and ninth months of 520 BC

# I. Background

## A.) Theme of God's presence

1. Adam and Eve in God's presence in the garden of Eden
2. Man's fall separates man and women from God's presence.
3. God makes a covenant with Abraham, and with Abraham's descendents the Israelite nation at Mount Sinai.
4. God's presence in the tabernacle.
5. God's presence in the promised land in a temple.
6. Israel breaks God's covenant, the nation is cursed, and ultimately many Israelites are exiled from the promised land.  
  
→ Northern Israel exiled 722 BC to Assyria, Southern Israel final defeat 586 BC
7. Return from exile (538 BC)...where is God's presence and His covenant promises now amidst the ruins of Jerusalem and Solomen's temple?

## II. The first message: Refocus priorities

Haggai 1:1-11

### A.) The historical setting 1:1

- 1.) Return from exile in 538 BC, but Haggai begins in King Darius's second year 520  
= about 18 years of not prioritizing God's temple.
- 2.) Why? External opposition Ezra 4:1, 4-24  
→ perhaps led to Haggai 1:2. But the real issue is....

### B.) God's rebuke 1:2-6

- 1.) The issue is not just the building itself, but how Israel's actions reveal **an indifferent heart toward worshipping God.**
- 2.) Consider your ways! (v.7) → An imperative for self judgement.
- 3.) Selfishness brings consequences. Even though they are physically back in the promised land, Israel is spiritually adrift and under the covenant curses (v.9-10).





## II. The first message: Refocus priorities

### **C. God's people obey. 1:12-15**

Haggai 1:14-15 → Temple restoration begins in 520 BC, the 2nd year of King Darius

Ezra 6:13-15 → Temple complete in 516 BC, the 6th year of King Darius

→ Even after the temple completion Nehemiah 2-5 (445 BC) records continued opposition.

### **D. Takeaways for God's people today.**

Consider your ways! → A discipline of spiritual self-reflection in God's word.

Are there any spiritual disciplines or responsibilities where we say "The time has not yet come?"

Is there any person, place, or thing in our heart that we run to while the things of God are left in disrepair?

# III. The second message: Reassurance from God

## **A.) God's encouragement 2:1-5**

- 1.) Ezra 3:10-13 provides background for Haggai 2:1-3
- 2.) God will supply the means to obey v. 4
- 3.) God is faithful v. 5

## **B.) God's guaranteed future glory 2:6-9**

- 1.) Do not be afraid or uncertain.

## IV. The third message: Revealing the heart issue

A.) An object lesson from Mosaic ceremonial law. 2:10-14

1.) Spiritual purity cannot be transferred, but spiritual impurity can.

B.)

1.) Three months after re-starting work, why does Haggai give such reproach after the reassurance from the second message?

2.) During temple rebuilding in the 8th month of 2nd year of King Darius' reign Zacheriah 1:3-6

3.) Haggai 2:15-19

→ God's righteousness is not mere outward obedience and religious ceremony.

→ Cause and effect from the Mosaic law's perspective.

## IV. The third message: Revealing the heart issue



#### IV. The third message: Revealing the heart issue

C.) This is not a works righteousness model as the Jewish leaders of Jesus' time tragically misunderstood and practiced.

- 1.) This obedience is from the inside out. God enables such a heart.
- 2.) Deuteronomy 30:6 → Deuteronomy 6:4
- 3.) Romans 9:30 - Romans 10:13

## V. The fourth message: God's future, ultimate victory

### A.)

- 1.) Similar to 2:6 and 2:21-22 are similar declarations.
- 2.) Military imagery of victory

### B.)

- 1.) God is faithful to his Abrahamic and Davidic covenant promises.
- 2.) Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel...

...is an ancestor of Jesus!

Matthew 1:13

Luke 3:27

## VI. Future Hope

**A.)** God's presence restored already, and not yet fully realized.

1 Corinthians 6:19 - Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

This is in all believers, not just worship in one physical location.

**B.)** At Jesus' return in the new heavens and earth, God's presence will be restored above and beyond the original creation's glory!

Revelation 21:22-26 - But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.