

Haggai

“Jesus Christ, our Temple”
“Jesus Christ, our Desire of the Nations”

Author: Haggai which means, “My Feast” or “On the Feast.”

Haggai was probably born to Godly parents on a feast day in Babylonia and came to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel in 538 BC (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4). Haggai is mentioned in Ezra 5:1-2; 6:14 as one of two prophets who encouraged the remnant from Exile to rebuild the Temple in spite of the difficulties. He exalted the LORD instead of himself. He cheered and encouraged, not just rebuked. He practiced what he preached. Haggai and the younger Zechariah worked at the same time. Zechariah was the visionary with his head in the clouds. Haggai was the practical man with his feet on the ground. These two kinds of people need to walk together.



The Prophet Haggai as depicted by the sculptor Giovanni Pisano (1285-1295) on the facade of the Siena Cathedral

Location & Date: The “second year of Darius” which was 520 BC

Contained in Haggai are the transcripts of five sermons given September 1 - December 24, 520 BC. For the history of this period, see Ezra 1:1 - 4:5; 4:24 - 6:22. The moment of his prophecy is found at Ezra 4:5; 4:24-5:2; 6:14.

The Post-Exilic Prophets, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, had a new problem that earlier prophets had never had. Before the Exile, Israel relied heavily on their Temple and rituals rather than on a true relationship with God. The post-Exilic prophets ministered to a discouraged and apathetic people who had given up the idea that anything they did would make any difference.

COMPARATIVE PASSAGES

Haggai 1:1-11 and Ezra 4:24 - 5:1
Haggai 1:12-15 and Ezra 5:2; Zechariah 1:1-6
Haggai 2:10-23 and Zechariah 1:7 - 6:15
Ezra 5:3-17; 6:1-13 and Zechariah 7-8

When the Jews got back to Jerusalem following the Exile and saw the destruction and rubble of the city that was still left after seventy years, they just wanted to give up. They were also influenced by the Persian view that all religions had equal value. In consequence, the Jews saw no real reason to pay careful attention to being a distinctive people of God. They just wanted to cruise, and they were drifting away from their moorings. The post-Exilic prophets saw the danger of losing such a Biblical revelatory heritage and the Messianic line of promise.

Post-Exilic Biblical Books

Books written after the Jewish Exile in Babylon:

Haggai	Prophetic
Zechariah	Prophetic
Esther	Historical
Ezra	Historical
Nehemiah	Historical
Malachi	Prophetic

This is the experience in which we find ourselves as a nation. We have gone from a religious nation to an apathetic and pluralistic nation. We need Haggai's to encourage us forward in revival!

Key Message: The Temple: Rebuild It! Haggai 1:8, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Get your priorities in line, Haggai says. Haggai and James have much in common: a partnership of faith and works.

ZERUBBABEL: A Type of Christ. Governor of Judea under the Persians, He would have been king of Israel. He was descended from two of David's sons, Solomon and Nathan. Jesus was also a descendant of both Solomon (legally on Joseph's side - Matthew 1:12) and Nathan (biologically on Mary's side - Luke 3:27).



Outline: shortest book in the Old Testament

1. **CHALLENGE TO THE PEOPLE**
 - a. (September 1, 520 BC – Haggai 1:1-11)
2. **RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGE**
 - a. (September 21, 520 BC – Haggai 1:12-15)
3. **ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE LORD**
 - a. (October 17, 520 BC – Haggai 2:1-9)
4. **BLESSING & DEFILEMENT**
 - a. (December 18, 520 BC – Haggai 2:10-19)
5. **A VIEW TO THE INCREDIBLE FUTURE**
 - a. (December 18, 520 BC – Haggai 2:20-23)

Sources: FF Bruce, *International Bible Commentary*; Alfred Edersheim, *Bible History Old Testament*; J. Vernon McGee, *Briefing the Bible: Life & Times Historical Reference Bible*; Matthew Henry's Commentary at www.ccel.org/h/henry/; Herbert Lockyer, *All the Men of the Bible*; Henrietta Mears, *What the Bible is All About*; Nelson's *Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts*; NIV Compact Reference Bible (1989); *The Reese Chronological Bible*; Larry Richards, *The Bible Readers Companion*; Ryken, Wilhoit, Longman, eds., *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*; Charles Swindoll, *Living Insights Study Bible*; Walking through the Bible at http://fly.hiwaay.net/~wgann/walk_ot/; *Wycliffe Bible Dictionary*. Haggai's picture comes from <http://www.kfki.hu/~arthp/detail/p/pisano/giovanni/other/34haggai.jpg>

THE TEMPLES IN SCRIPTURE

Solomon's Temple: 2 Samuel 7:1-29; 1 Kings 8.
Destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, Jeremiah 32:28-44.

Zerubbabel's Temple: The one here in Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, & Nehemiah. Ezra 3:1-8; 4:1-14; 6:1-22. Desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes 169 BC.

Herod's Temple: The one where Jesus preached.
Restoration of Zerubbabel's Temple began in 19 BC, nearly completed when destroyed by Romans in AD 70. Since then, no Temple has been in Jerusalem.

Present Temple: Body of Christ in hearts of believers
1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

Temple of Antichrist: Revelation 11; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; site of abomination of desolation, Daniel 9:2; Matthew 24:15. To be destroyed with Antichrist, Revelation 17-18.

Millennial Temple: Seen by Ezekiel 40:1 - 42:20 and Zechariah 6:12-13. To be built by Messiah.

Eternal Temple of the Presence: Revelation 21:22, the Lord Almighty and the Lamb

A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE NEVER HURT ANYBODY

586 BC – July 9: Jerusalem falls (August 7-10: Temple and Walls destroyed)

Book of **Lamentations**.

573 BC – April 10 - **Ezekiel's** vision of Future Temple (Ezekiel 40-48)

560 BC – **Jeremiah** dies around age 93.

559 BC – Cyrus begins reign in Persia (until 529 BC)

539 BC – October 12: Fall of Babylon (Daniel 5)

EXILE ENDS by **Daniel's** Intercession (Daniel 9) & Cyrus' Decree

537 BC – **Daniel** in Lions' Den (Daniel 6)

536 BC – Spring: Remnant of 50,000 Jews return under Zerubbabel

TEMPLE FOUNDATION LAID

521 BC – **Zechariah** preaches & prophesies

520 BC – September 1 - December 18: **Haggai** lays it on the line about neglecting the Rebuilding of the Temple.

516 BC – Rebuilt Temple is dedicated (Ezra 5-6; Haggai; Zechariah).

480 BC – Greeks defeat Persians in naval battle of Salamis.

479 BC – January : **Esther** becomes Queen of Persia (Xerxes' wife).

474 BC – April - May: **Haman's** plot of Genocide against the Jews fails.

458 BC – **Ezra** leads second expedition from Babylon to Israel of 1700 mostly priestly class Jews.

444 BC – **Nehemiah** rebuilds the Wall of Jerusalem.

424 BC – Malachi born.

405 BC – Nehemiah dies at age 70.

397 BC – **Malachi** prophesies.

336 BC – Alexander the Great overthrows Persia and Hellenizes the world.

331 BC – Malachi dies at age 93.

END OF OLD TESTAMENT ERA



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