

The Book of Haggai

**Build the
Temple!**

**“....In
comparison
with it, is this
not in your
eyes as
nothing?”
(2:3)**

Background

- The name Haggai means **“the festive one”** or **“joyous one.”**
- Haggai continually appeals to the Lord as the source of his authority.
- **26 times** in 38 verses!
 - ***“saith the Lord”*** or ***“the word of the Lord of hosts.”***
- **Divine origin** of the message.
- Meant to move God’s people **to action!**

Background

- Hometown was probably Jerusalem; nothing is known about his occupation.
- Lived during the post-exile period.
- The first to prophesy following the Babylonian captivity (**70 years**).
- Prophesied in **520 B.C.**—2nd year of Darius the Great.
- **16 years** after the first wave returned under Zerubbabel.

Background

- Cyrus of Persia, a great general and king, combined the nations of Media and Persia.
- Took the city of Babylon in **539 B.C.**
- Cyrus **reversed policy**—he allowed the captive peoples to return to their homelands.
- There, they could rebuild the temples and call upon their “gods” to bless Cyrus.
- Cyrus decreed that the Jews could return to the land of their fathers!

Background

- The first captives to return only rebuilt the altar and laid the foundation for the temple.
- They abandoned their work for **16 years**; God was displeased!
- Following the death of **Cyrus**, during the reign of **Darius**, God raised up Haggai and Zechariah as prophets to stir the people to completely rebuild the temple!

Keys to Haggai

- **Key words**
 - Build, Consider, Hope
- **Key phrase**
 - “Saith the Lord”
- **Key chapter**
 - Chapter 2
- **Key verses**
 - 1:7,8

“....and I will fill this temple with glory, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, says the LORD of hosts.”

The Book's Message

- **FIRST MESSAGE**: Rebuke for religious indifference and exhortation to build the temple. **(Chapter 1)**
 - Living in ceiled houses while the Lord's house lay waste! **(1:4)**
 - Consider their ways, why thing had not turned out as they planned. **(1:6,9)**
 - No prosperity because they neglected God's work.
 - Three weeks later, they began to build. **(1:14,15)**

The Book's Message

- **SECOND MESSAGE**: Consolation for those in despair.
(2:1-9)
 - A month later, God spoke thru the prophet.
 - People had become discouraged—the new temple did not compare to the former.
 - The prophet looks beyond the temple being built—to the glory under the temple of the coming Messiah.
 - Prophecy concerning glory and peace of the church—the temple of today!

The Book's Message

- **THIRD MESSAGE**: Completion of the temple will be a guarantee of material blessings. **(2:10-19)**
 - Until now, material blessings had been withheld from them.
 - The fruit trees did not produce.
 - God is saying—**“Do My work and I will bless you!”**
 - Haggai encouraged them; they continued working; and in four years, the temple was completed.

The Book's Message

- **FOURTH MESSAGE**: The exaltation of Zerubbabel. (2:20-23)
 - God promises to overthrow the heathen powers and exalt Zerubbabel.
 - In Christ that promise is kept.
 - Jesus came through Zerubbabel, and in this, Zerubbabel is honored.
 - See Matthew 1:12,13

Lessons for Us today

- Discouragement, however profound, is not a reason for neglecting duties.
- When a good work is awaiting accomplishment, the time to do it is now!
- The basis of all successful preaching is “thus saith the Lord.”
- How futile is human effort when separated from spiritual emphasis.
- If material considerations crowd out God’s house and worship, our wealth costs too much.