

## Outline of Haggai

- 1:1-15 Oracle 1: Misplaced Priority**  
(1st Day of 6th Month, 520BC)
- 2:1-9 Oracle 2: Improper Perspective**  
(21st Day of 7th Month, 520BC)
- 2:10-19 Oracle 3: Unrealistic Expectation**  
(24th Day of 9th Month, 520BC)
- 2:20-23 Oracle 4: Encouraging Promises**  
(24th Day of 9th Month, 520BC)

### Author

Haggai's name is a form of the Hebrew word *hag*, meaning “feast” or “feast of Yahweh.” Haggai was one who returned from the Babylonian exile. The Jews who had returned to the native land had engaged themselves with their fields and their own personal affairs rather than the work of rebuilding the Temple of God. Haggai first sounded the call followed soon by Zechariah. Haggai delivered four messages to the restoration community. His ministry only lasted about four months all in the year 520BC. Haggai's purpose was clear. He motivated the Jews to build the Temple including confronting them of their misplaced priorities. They were building their own houses while neglecting God's house. It was important to finish the Temple, because only then would the people be able to resume Levitical worship as the Lord specified. The people went to work after hearing his first message. But when difficulty arose they stopped the work. Haggai delivered a second message, and the people resumed the

## HAGGAI

*God used Haggai to encourage the people to rebuild the Temple. They were occupied with building their own homes and personal affairs, neglecting the Temple. However, much of what Haggai prophesied deals with Millennial blessings.*

work again. Then another difficulty appeared, and again the people stopped. He delivered two messages on the same day, and the people were moved to finish the project.

### Summary

The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar

### Haggai's Four Messages to Motivate

#### Message 1: Misplaced Priority

##### — Self Ahead of the Lord (1:1-15)

- The people put rebuilding the Temple on hold while they gave priority to what was important to them.
- They needed to give priority to what God said they should do rather than what they wanted to do.
- We often wait for direction from God to act when He has already told us what He wants us to do.

#### Message 2: Improper Perspective

##### — Looking Back Instead of Ahead (2:1-9)

- It appeared to them that their work amounted to nothing significant, discouraging them to stop.
- They should not compare the work God has given to them with someone they considered great.
- It is easy for believers to be distracted by what other believers have done, and to conclude their contribution is insignificant.

#### Message 3: Unrealistic Expectation

##### — Failing to Confess Sins (2:10-19)

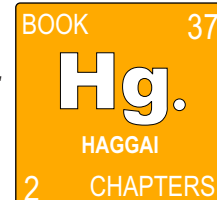
- The people thought that since they had begun the work of rebuilding the Temple, that God should begin to bless them. They should not expect much blessing if their obedience was only external.

#### Message 4: Encouraging Promises

##### — Unbelief (2:20-23)

- The people should not expect reversal of the current conditions in the immediate future. The enemy looks so strong, and we look so weak. Our duty is to believe the promises of God, and that He will balance the scales of justice some day.

## PROPHETS



destroyed the city of Jerusalem which included Solomon's Temple in 586BC. He also took most of the Jews captive bringing them to Babylon. The Persian king Cyrus issued a decree permitting the Jewish exiles in Babylon to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple (Ez.1:2-4). About 50,000 returned under the newly appointed governor of Judah, Zerubbabel. Opposition to rebuilding the Temple resulted in postponed construction for 16 years. During this period apathy to rebuild the Temple set in among the residents of Jerusalem. They cleared the Temple court of rubble and replaced the altar of burnt offerings' base, thus allowing the daily sacrifice to begin. The people became accustomed to worship among the ruins.

In 520BC the preaching of Haggai encouraged the people to resume rebuilding the Temple. They finished the project five years later in 515BC (Ez.1-6).



### CHRIST IN HAGGAI

- The “glory of this latter house shall be greater” in its ultimate Millennial fulfillment because Christ is the glory (Hg.2:9). Lasting “peace” will only result in the presence of the Prince of Peace.