

1A ***Haggai***

2A Introduction (with help from the ISBE & Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible):

1B His name means “festal.” Haggai 2:3 implies that he had seen Solomon’s temple before the Babylonian conquest. That would put him at around 80 years old, or even more.

2B He was a contemporary and co-worker of the prophet Zechariah:

1C Ezra 5:1, "1 Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. "

2C Ezra 6:14, "14 So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. "

3B Historical background:

1C Babylon came and conquered Judah and Jerusalem in 586 B.C. Many Jews were sent into exile in Babylon at that time.

2C In 539 B.C. Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon. He made a decree that allowed Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

3C In the following year, about 50,000 Jews returned under Zerubbabel, and immediately began work removing the rubble and preparing the site for the rebuilding of the temple.

4C Thanks to the help of Phoenician masons, the foundation was laid two years later: Ezra 3:8–10, "8 Now in the second month of the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, began work and appointed the Levites from twenty years old and above to oversee the work of the house of the LORD. 9 Then Jeshua with his sons and brothers, Kadmiel with his sons, and the sons of Judah, arose as one to oversee those working on the house of God: the sons of Henadad with their sons and their brethren the Levites. 10 When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. "

5C Immediately the Samaritans, who occupied lands to the north of Jerusalem, slandered the Jews and their efforts. Work came to a halt for over 15 years.

6C Darius the Great then came to power in Persia, and he was sympathetic to the religious activities of his vassal states, including the Jews. His policy would allow rebuilding, but there was little response from the complacent people in Judah. They were willing to go on living without a temple.

- 7C Haggai came on the scene to inspire them to once again pick up the work of rebuilding.
- 8C He gave four messages during a four month span in 520 B.C., the second year of Darius the Great.
 - 1D The first message was on the first day of the sixth month, overlapping August and September. It was addressed to Zerubbabel. Haggai 1.
 - 2D The second came on the 21st day of the seventh month, the last day of Tabernacles, overlapping September and October. It was addressed to Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the remnant. Haggai 2:1-10.
 - 3D The third and fourth came on the 24th of the ninth month, overlapping November and December. The third was addressed to the priests (Haggai 2:11-20), while the fourth was addressed to Zerubbabel (Haggai 2:21-23).
- 3A Exposition:
 - 1B Haggai 1, the first message:
 - 1C Introduction, 1:
 - 1D When, 1a: In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month,
 - 2D What, 1b: the word of the LORD came
 - 3D Whom, 1c: by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,
 - 2C The message, vv.2-11:
 - 1D The attitude of the people toward the temple, 2: “Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built.””
 - 2D The precious nature of their own houses, vv.3-4: 3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses (sephunim – wood paneling), and this temple to lie in ruins?”
 - 3D A call for self-evaluation, 5: Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts (why “Yahweh of Legions” here?): “Consider your ways! (literally, set before your heart your ways)
 - 4D An assessment of their laziness, gluttony, dissatisfaction, and poor stewardship, 6: “You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.”
 - 5D A second call for self-evaluation, 7: Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!
 - 6D A command, 8a: Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple,

- 7D The purpose for the command, 8b: that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the LORD.
- 8D The disappointment of their expectations, 9a: “You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away.
- 9D The reason for the disappointment, 9b: Why?” says the LORD of hosts. “Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.
- 10D The restraint of the prosperity, 10: Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit.
- 11D The explanation, 11: For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”
- 3C The result of the prophecy, vv.12-15:
 - 1D The response of the leaders and the people, 12: Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the LORD.
 - 2D God’s simple message of support, 13: Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, spoke the LORD’s message to the people, saying, “I am with you, says the LORD.”
 - 3D The work begins anew, vv.14-15: 14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.
- 2B Haggai 2:1-9, the second message:
 - 1C Introduction, vv.1-2:
 - 1D When, 1a: In the seventh month, on the twenty-first of the month,
 - 2D What, 1b: the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying:
 - 3D Whom, 2: “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying:
 - 2C Question concerning comparison for the pre-exilic survivors, 3 ‘Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?
 - 1D “This house” indicates that Solomon’s temple and the current project are one in the same. God’s temple is the same no matter the generation.
 - 2D But in their eyes, their current building project was a profound disappointment. It and nothing are the same in their eyes.

- 3D Indeed at the building of the foundation many wept. Ezra 3:12–13, "12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy, 13 so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off. "
- 4D And this is also the reason their homes look so fine, with the wood paneling. Their homes were reasonable projects. The temple seems unreasonable.
- 3C Encouragement to work from the Lord of legions, 4: Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts.
- 4C Affirmation of the promise of the Spirit in the temple work, 5: 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!'
- 1D He promised His presence among them, Exodus 29:44–46, "44 So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests. 45 I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God. "
- 2D He gave an endowment of His Holy Spirit to the skilled workers of the tabernacle, Exodus 31:2–5, "2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, 4 to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, 5 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. "
- 3D He is always true to His Word, Psalm 105:8, "8 He remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, "
- 4D And indeed there was a more recent promise, Zechariah 4:6–9, "6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. 7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' ' " 8 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 9 "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. "

- 5C** The promise of a new shaking of all the earth and all the nations, vv.6-7: 6 “For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts.
- 1D** In the giving of the Mosaic covenant, at Mt. Sinai, the earth shook with the voice of the Lord.
- 2D** Exodus 19:16, "16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.
- 3D** Likewise, the Jews shook, just one nation.
- 4D** When Jesus came in the first advent, He visited the temple many times, even from age 12.
- 5D** But at His death, something glorious really did happen in the temple, Matthew 27:51–53, "51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. "
- 6C** The promise of greater glory for the present temple, 8 ‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts. 9 ‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.”
- 1D** In that very temple, God did indeed give peace, and He gave it to all the nations.
- 2D** The veil split from top to bottom, revealing the most holy place of the temple to the eyes of all.
- 3D** It was the great, “This is that” message of the veil and the cross. The cross is truly what the most holy place had been depicting for fourteen centuries.
- 4D** So the encouraging message of Haggai is this: in this temple will the true peace of God come. And it did. It will be the Messiah’s temple.
- 3B** Haggai 2:10-19: The third message:
- 1C** Introduction, 10-11a:
- 1D** When, 10a: On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius,
- 2D** What, 10b: the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,
- 3D** Whom, 11: “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Now, ask the priests concerning the law, saying,
- 2C** Questions and answers, vv.12-13:

- 1D The question concerning the Law, 12a: “If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew, wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?” ’ ”
- 2D The answer, 12b: Then the priests answered and said, “No.”
- 3D A second question, 13a: And Haggai said, “If one who is unclean because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?”
- 4D The answer, 13b: So the priests answered and said, “It shall be unclean.”
- 3C The comparison to the present work of rebuilding the temple, 14: Then Haggai answered and said, “‘So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.
- 4C The poverty and hardness of heart of the former days, vv.15-17: 15 ‘And now, carefully consider from this day forward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the LORD— 16 since those days, when one came to a heap of twenty ephahs, there were but ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw out fifty baths from the press, there were but twenty. 17 I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me,’ says the LORD.
- 5C A call to consider the poverty and a new promise, vv.18-19: 18 ‘Consider now from this day forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the LORD’s temple was laid—consider it: 19 Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you.’ ”
- 4B Haggai 2:20-23, the third message:
- 1C Introduction, vv.20-21a:
- 1D What, 20a: And again the word of the LORD came to Haggai
- 2D When, 20b: on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying,
- 3D Whom, 21a: “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying:
- 2C Promise of ultimate victory over Gentile kingdoms, 21a-22: ‘I will shake heaven and earth. 22 I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother.
- 1D The peace of the first advent leads to the victory of the second.
- 2D It is critical to understand the first advent in this book!
- 3C Promise of significance to Zerubbabel, 23: ‘In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,’ says the LORD, ‘and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,’ says the LORD of hosts. ”
- 1D Zerubbabel will be present at the second advent, and at that time, the Lord will remind everyone of his role in building the “peace temple.”

2D Building the temple in which the veil was torn was the foundation for everything to follow.