

**Return Period:**  
**Haggai: Get On With The Work *Haggai 1:1-2:23***

Haggai, "festival, festive, or my feast," is the second shortest book in the Old Testament with only 38 verses. (only Obadiah is shorter). The historical setting of Haggai found in ***Ezra 5:1; 6:14*** is the period when the Jews were returning from captivity to rebuild the temple. (See **STEPS IN TIME V**) The work however had stalled because of opposition. God sent two prophets to exhort the people to get on with the work. Haggai was one of these prophets.

The book consists of four sermons preached by Haggai. These four sermons are the clearest dated events found in scripture. The first was on September 1, 521 BC, the second on October 21, 521, and the final two on December 24, 521. This is only about a four-month span of time.

Haggai was especially aware of the origin of his messages being from God. No less than 25 times in these thirty eight verses Haggai affirmed the divine authority of his message. (See ***1:1,2,7,13;2:1,4,6-9,10,11,14,20,23***)

In Haggai three temples are mentioned. They are the temple of Solomon, the temple of Zerubbabel, and the future temple of the Millennium. Allow me to outline Haggai as follows:

**I- First Message *Hag 1:1-15***

**II- Second Message *Hag 2:1-9***

**III- Third Message *Hag 2:10-19***

**IV- Fourth Message *Hag 2:10-23***

---

**I- First Message *Hag 1:1-15***

The first message of Haggai was preached on September 1, 521 BC. Darius was king of Persia ***Hag 1:1***.

According to **1:2** the people were saying, "***The time is not come, to time that the Lord's house should be built.***" The people were saying it was not time to build the temple. Their excuse was a lame one at best. They were discouraged from the opposition and had gotten settled in with doing nothing. God has a message from Haggai to them. **1:3**. The message was not one of waiting but of go forward. The prophet told them they have come back and rebuilt their fine homes and God's house lay in waste. The unconcern for the rebuilding of God's house had been the cause of God withholding the blessings He would have given them.

**1:7-8** the prophet told them to get on with the work of making God's house what it needed to be. He told them to go get the lumber and get on with the work.

**1:9-11** again is a reminder of God withholding His hand of blessing.

**1:12-15** These verses are actually the response of the people to the message. The leaders were moved in their hearts. The work was started and completed on the rebuilding of the temple.

**II- Second Message *Hag 2:1-9***

The second message was preached on October 21st, 521. The message was one of patience. ***Ezra 3:8-13*** gives us some insight into these events. ***Hag 1:3*** ask who among them had seen the former temple and its entire splendor. The temple that had been rebuilt was pale in comparison to the first one. These old men wept when they saw the new one.

The message from God however was one of hope because He reminded them that this was not the final temple. The glory of the final temple will be greater than the first one.

**2:9** There is little doubt that *the "desire of all nations"* is a reference to the Lord Jesus. This temple is talked about in great detail in *Ezekiel 40-48*.

### III- Third Message Hag 2:10-19

This third message was delivered on December 24, 521 BC. It contains two questions that should have moved Israel to consider their situation. The first question concerns a sacrifice carried in a robe that happens to brush against some meat, or bread or wine. Would this holy sacrifice make the thing it touched Holy? The answer was no. **2:12.**

The second question was if someone touched a dead body which according to the law made them ceremonially impure and they in turn touch something does it make that something unclean. The answer was yes. **2:14.**

There are many lessons to be learned here. First he was teaching Israel that the neglected temple had rendered all their worship and giving unclean. Still a greater point might have been that righteousness is not automatically transferred.

Unrighteousness however is passed on. A holy thing does not make everything it touches holy but unholy corrupts all it touches. God told them because of their obedience from this day forth He *"would bless you."*

The true message here is consider your ways, motives, and obedience to the things you know to be of God.

### IV- Fourth Message 2:20-23

The fourth message was preached the same day as the third. This message is very prophetic because it talks about the time we know as the "great tribulation." When the times of the Gentiles have been fulfilled God will, as Haggai say, *"shake the heavens and the earth. And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen..."* Again I remind us that the message of the prophets has been the same, there is going to be a restoration of Israel. The Gentile nations are allowed to rule for a short time but then God will overthrow them. God is going to destroy all the nations that have afflicted Israel. (See *Heb 12:26; Rev 16:18-20*). This crushing of the world empires is also seen in *Daniel 2:44-45* being done by the *"stone"* which is Christ.

The final verse of Haggai is an interesting verse. Some see Zerubbabel as possible being the Prime Minister during the millennium. Remember that he is from the lineage of David. This, at the least, means that Messiah will occupy the Davidic throne.

### Application to Life's Steps:

- 1- God is honored when His house upkeep is up to standards.
- 2- Obedience to God allows Him to freely bless us.
- 3- The glory of things to come is pale compared to the present.
- 4- Holiness is on an individual basis and is not inherited.
- 5- Our response to God's will and message should be one of obedience.
- 6- The outcome of history has always been in the hands of Almighty God and will continue to be so.

