

# Old Testament Introduction

## *The Book of Haggai*

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### INTRODUCTION

- 1) Haggai means “\_\_\_\_\_.” The Hebrew root word from which Haggai’s name is derived means “\_\_\_\_\_.” Haggai’s name may have been given to him by his parents in anticipation of the joyous return from exile.
- 2) Whatever the occasion for the naming of Haggai, his name was well chosen—he was one of the few prophets who had the thrill of seeing the fruit of his preaching ripen before his very eyes! Haggai is the first of the \_\_\_\_\_ Post-exilic writing prophets
- 3) The people to whom Haggai preached were very different than those to whom Jeremiah preached prior to the Babylonian captivity.
- Jeremiah’s message was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He preached to an apostate generation that was ripe for God’s judgment.
  - His message fell on hardened hearts and was without effect except to increase the condemnation of those who rejected it.
- 4) The message of Haggai to the generation after the captivity, on the other hand, was heeded and obeyed.
- He preached to a people who, in spite of neglecting for a time to build God’s house at the expense of building their own, had a \_\_\_\_\_ for the Word of God.
  - Haggai was blessed to see his preaching bring forth prompt and immediate fruit.

### 5) Historical Setting

**586 B.C.** Jerusalem and Temple destroyed by Babylonian invaders.

**539 B.C.** Babylon falls to the Medo-Persians, ruled by Cyrus.

**538 B.C.** God moves Cyrus to issue a decree permitting and encouraging the Jews to return to their homeland.

**536 B.C.** Zerubbabel leads about 50,000 Jews back to Judah.

**536-535 B.C.** Altar of burnt offerings is built at Jerusalem on the ruins of the Temple and the foundations for the new Temple are laid.

**535-534 B.C.** The neighboring Samaritans oppose the Temple project.

**534 B.C.** The work on the Temple ceases.

**520 B.C.** Haggai preaches to the people who were in Judah and Jerusalem. The Temple project is resumed.

**516 B.C.** The Temple project is completed.

- 6) Haggai has been called “*a momentous little \_\_\_\_\_*.” It is one of the shortest books in the Bible, but it has an encouraging message that is very applicable to us today: “*Put God \_\_\_\_\_ in life and service.*”

### AUTHORSHIP

**Traditional view:** \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the book (**1:1**). He and Zechariah prophesied during the same time. Very little is known about Haggai. He was probably born in captivity in Babylon and returned with Zerubbabel following the decree of Cyrus. He is mentioned two times in the Book of \_\_\_\_\_ (**5:1 & 6:14**).

### RECIPIENTS

This book consists of \_\_\_\_\_ sermons Haggai preached to the remnant that had returned to Jerusalem and Judah under Zerubbabel. They are messages to challenge these people to rebuild the Temple. Haggai’s messages were also intended to encourage Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the High Priest in their respective ministries.

## DATE OF WRITING

Haggai is the most precisely dated prophecy in the Bible. According to **1:1, 2:1, & 2:10**, his prophecy was in the 2nd year of Darius (522-486 B.C.), during the sixth to ninth months.

## PURPOSE OF BOOK

**Historical** = To encourage the people to rebuild the Temple.

- The returning remnant had started well, but opposition from the Samaritans, complacency learned during the exile, and disillusionment upon their return to find mostly desolation, hostility, and hardship had caused the people to become \_\_\_\_\_.
- For \_\_\_\_\_ years they remained this way until God raised up Haggai and Zechariah to exhort them to resume the work on the Temple.

**Doctrinal** = There are many lessons in Haggai:

- God blesses his people when they put Him \_\_\_\_\_ (**Matthew 6:33**).
- When we are serving God, we should never become “weary in well-doing” (**Galatians 6:9**).

**Christological** = To promise the return of the “*Desire of the nations*” to \_\_\_\_\_ the Temple’s glory (**2:7-9**), and \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdoms of this world (**2:22**).

## THEME OF THE BOOK

\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord’s house.

## OUTLINE

- I. The Message to Rebuild the Temple (**1**)
- II. The Message to Remember the LORD (**2:1-9**)
- III. The Message to Reserve the Purity (**2:10-19**)
- IV. The Message to Restore the Nation (**2:20-23**)