

Haggai

- Haggai – festal
- Author of the book
- messages/oracles – four months during the second year of Darius
- likely saw the first temple

Setting the Stage

- **Large territory**
- **King from the line of David**
- **Strong economy**



- **Province of Yehud**
- **“governor” appointed by King of Persia**
- **Military nearby**

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Haggai Begins Temple Building

In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: “Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.” Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?”

Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

Hag 1:1-6 (ESV)

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.”

Hag 1:7-11 (ESV)

Main Players and the Problem

Main Players

- Haggai (the prophet)
- Zerubbabel (the governor, appointed by the king)
- Joshua (the high priest)
- The LORD of hosts

The Problem

- People: “the time for building the house of the LORD has not yet come”

First Message

- second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month
 - Time of the new moon festival (1 Chr 23:31)
 - Most of the harvest complete
 - Burnt offerings presented

“Consider Your Ways” (Look at what’s happening to you!)

Verse 5	Verse 7
Poor harvest	Go up into the hills
Not enough food or drink	Bring down timber
Clothing inadequate	Rebuild My house

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Not enough food or drink	Bring down timber
Clothing inadequate	Rebuild My house
The Lord frustrated their plans	The Lord will take pleasure in it and be honoured

Blessings

And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Deut 28:1-6 (ESV)

Curses

But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed you shall you be in the field. **Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.** Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. **The LORD will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do**, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.

Deut 28:15-20 (ESV)

Challenging Times

“Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose...

Ezra 4:4-5a (ESV)

Then, when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their associates, they went in haste to the Jews at Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease. Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Ezra 4:23-24 (ESV)

The People Respond

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 LORD. Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD'S message, "I am with you, declares the LORD."

And 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, on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

Hag 1:12-15 (ESV)

The Coming Glory of the Temple

In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet: “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD.

Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”

Hag 2:1-9 (ESV)

Second Message

- seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month
 - Second last day of the Feast of Tabernacles
 - New temple not as impressive
 - **be strong, O Zerubbabel, be strong, O Joshua, be strong, all you people of the land.. Work, for I am with you... My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.**

Greater Than the Temple...

**“But will God indeed dwell on the earth?
Behold, heaven and the highest heaven
cannot contain you; how much less this
house that I have built!**

King Solomon

**The Lord will fill this (second) temple with
glory and bring peace..**

Blessings for a Defiled People

On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Ask the priests about the law: ‘If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?’” The priests answered and said, “No.” Then Haggai said, “If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?” The priests answered and said, “It does become unclean.”

Then Haggai answered and said, “So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, declares the LORD, and so with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is unclean. Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the LORD, how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty. I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to me, declares the LORD.

Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider: Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you.”

Hag 2:10-19 (ESV)

Third Message

- the 24th day of the ninth month
 - Priests confirm rules around things being holy /clean or unclean
 - Unclean people/nations make things unclean
 - Sacrifices weren't acceptable
 - During the time for sowing seed
 - The Lord would now bless the people

Zerubbabel Chosen as a Signet

The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother. On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the LORD, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the LORD of hosts.” Hag 2:20-23 (ESV)

Fourth Message

- the 24th day of the ninth month
 - Directed to Zerubbabel
 - Heavens and earth to be shaken
 - Earthquakes seen as indication of God's judgment
 - Zerubbabel to be made like a signet ring
 - Reversal of Jeremiah 22?

Restoration of the House of David

What Happened to the Temple?

- Temple completed in 515 B.C.
- Renovated by Herod
- Destroyed in A.D. 70



Connecting With God

“Be strong and know that I am with you”

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Jn 2:10-21 (ESV)

“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.” 1 Cor 3:16-17 (ESV)

Consider Your Ways!

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. Col 1:15-18 (ESV)

Do we put Jesus first in all things?

An Unshakeable Kingdom

At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. **Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.**

Hebrews 12:26-29 (ESV)

The Future

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev 21:22-27 (ESV)