



# Book of Haggai

Old Testament Workshop  
Morrison Heights Baptist Church  
April 19, 2020

# Historical Context

Death of Nebuchadnezzar

Fall of Babylon

Death of Cyrus

562

539

530

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Babylonian Empire

Persian Empire

Reign of Darius: 522-486

600

500

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Daniel

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Obadiah

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Zechariah

587

Babylonian Exile

538

515

Fall of Jerusalem

Edict of Cyrus

Temple Rebuilt

# Biographical Data

The Book of Haggai is 38 verses.



## Name

The name Haggai [חַגַּי] derives from the Hebrew noun חג, translated “feast.” The prophet may have been born during an annual religious festival.

## Titles

a. Prophet **(1:1, 3, 12; 2:1, 10)**

The second of three Old Testament men to be called a prophet in the opening verse of their prophetic book.

SEE also Habakkuk and Zechariah.

b. Messenger **(1:13)**

# Biographical Data

**Ministry Time Period: 520 BC**

The Book of Haggai is a chronological collection of five distinct messages, four being dated.

❶ August 29 (1:1-11)

Addressees: Zerubbabel (governor) and Joshua (high priest)

❷ NO Date (1:13)

Addressee: former exiles

❸ October 17 (2:1-9)

Addressees: Zerubbabel, Joshua, and former exiles

❹ December 18 (2:10-19)

Addressees: priests

❺ December 18 (2:20-23)

Addressees: Zerubbabel

# Biographical Data

## Impact

### a. Revived the Rebuilding of the Temple

Following the Edict of Cyrus (538 BC), *some* of the Jewish exiles returned home to rebuild (**Ezra 2; Neh. 7**). They reconstructed the altar, even laid a foundation for the temple (**Ezra 3**), but stopped when locals—“people of the land”—harassed them (**Ezra 4:1-5, 24**). Fast forward 18 years! Haggai and Zechariah, his contemporary, motivated the Jews to finish the job (**Hag. 1:12-15; Ezra 5:1-6:15**).

Construction Resumed

*September 21, 520 BC*

Construction Finished

*March 12, 515 BC*



# Biographical Data

## Impact

### b. Raised Expectations

1. Eschatological (1:6-9)
2. Messianic (2:20-23)



## Unrealistic Expectations?

Haggai AND Zechariah had insisted, “Rebuild God’s temple and glory will come!”

**Haggai 2:1-9**

**Zechariah 1:16-17; 2:10-13; 6:11-15; 8:1-23**

Then, reality set in; specifically, famine and poverty, NOT fortune and peace. Disappointment lasted decades, even impacting the ministry of Malachi.



# Context and Message

## Context: Spiritually Oblivious

Farms had become unproductive;  
So, God's people cursed the weather.

1:2-6

Families lacked adequate food, drink, and clothing;  
So, God's people criticized farmers and wages.

Finances did not reflect hours worked;  
So, God's people cried, "Recession!"



**CONCLUSION:** We're in no shape to rebuild the God's temple!

## Message: God through Haggai

"You're in that shape because the My temple has not been rebuilt!"

1:7-11; 2:15-17