

Through the Bible Course

November 30, 1947

Haggai

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Key Word: the temple

Key Verse: 2:4

Time: During reign of Darius, 520 BC. He was a contemporary of Zechariah. Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were post-exilic prophets.

Circumstances: There were about 50,000 who had returned to Jerusalem. Cyrus, king of Persia, had given permission to rebuild temple (Ezra 4:1ff), but for 16 years they had done nothing about rebuilding. The people were discouraged because everything they undertook had to be done in spite of great opposition. Haggai writes to encourage them to rebuild the temple. It must be remembered that the temple was the center of Jewish worship and to neglect it meant they were neglecting God.

Outline is very plain. Four addresses shown by definite dates of delivery.

- I. Chapter 1:1-15 – Spoken first day of sixth month, or September 1. Haggai reproaches them for failure to rebuild temple
 1. Verse 2 – They said no time to build
 2. Verses 4, 5 – Not because of lack of means
 - a. Verse 8 – build with what you can obtain
 3. Verses 6-11 - Their condition of want due to indifference to Lord's House
 4. Verses 12-15 – The people began to build

- II. Chapter 2:1-9 – Spoken twentieth day of seventh month, or October 20. Encouragement to those who were discouraged with temple being built
 1. Verse 3 – The temple seemed as nothing to those who had seen Solomon's temple.
 2. Verses 4, 5 – Lord encouraged them to be strong and said He would be with them.
 3. Verses 6-9 – The Lord will see that the future glory will be greater than the past.
 - a. Verse 7 – desire is understood by some to mean Messiah; by others to mean desirable or precious things of all nations
 - b. Verse 9 – seems to be a prophecy of another more glorious temple to be built in some future time
 1. Isaiah 60:5-7 – seems to indicate this; also Ezekiel 41-43:5

- III. Chapter 2:10-19 – Spoken twenty-fourth day of ninth month, or December 24
 1. Here again we have the prophet rebuking the people for their delay.
 2. Haggai in these verses uses a parable showing that, according to the Law of Moses, cleanliness does not spread cleanliness but that uncleanness spreads defilement. The lesson

is that their not building the temple spreads defilement and is cause for their continued lack of prosperity.

IV. Chapter 2:20-23 – Spoken same time as above address, but is delivered to Zerubbabel alone

1. Here the prophet assures the people that the Messianic line will be continued through \ Zerubbabel even though a curse was pronounced upon Jehoiachin in Jeremiah 22:24
2. The future kingdom of glory would come as predicted.