

THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Scale of English Miles

TRUTH, PROPHECY, and MESSIAH

A Study of the Minor Prophets

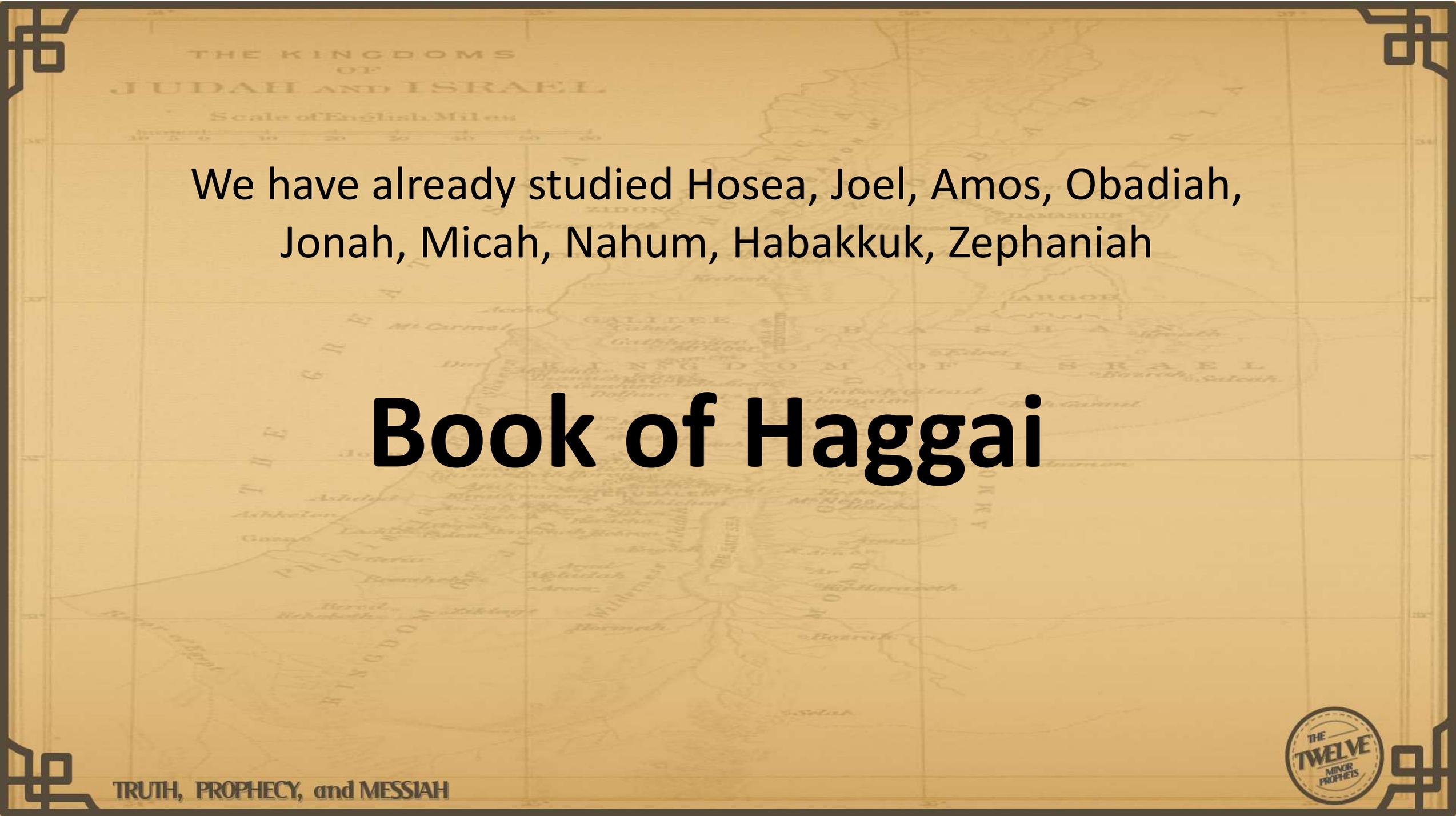


What are we studying?

- The Minor Prophets is a collection of twelve Old Testament books, known simply as “the Twelve” or “the Book of the Twelve” in the Hebrew Bible.
- **The title “minor” refers to length, not significance or value.**
- Roughly in chronological order, each of these short books gives a glimpse into the spiritual landscape and history of Israel, challenging the status quo through prophets called to speak on God’s behalf.
- In the Hebrew Bible, these works are counted as one book.

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/minor-prophets>





THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Scale of English Miles

We have already studied Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah,
Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

Book of Haggai

Author: Haggai, the first prophet through whom God spoke to the postexilic Judean community. Nothing is known of his parentage or genealogy.

Date: Ca. 520 BC, describing events that took place from August – December, 520 BC.

Purpose: To spur the people of Judah to complete the temple rebuilding project by showing the consequences of disobedience and of obedience.

Key Message: Haggai's message encouraged the people to finish rebuilding God's temple. The temple lay half-finished while the people lived in beautiful homes. **Haggai warned them against putting their possessions and jobs ahead of God.**

Setting

The destruction of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem by the Babylonian armies in 586 BC marked the end of an era in Jewish national and religious life. As exiles in Babylon, the Jews were without a temple and without their sacrifices. Though they could direct their prayers toward Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:48; Dan. 6:10), it was only under the generous policies of Cyrus the Great, king of Persia, that almost 50,000 Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Ezra 1:2–4; Isaiah 44:28), accompanied by Joshua the high priest and the Prophets Haggai and Zechariah. Levitical sacrifices were soon reinstated on a rebuilt altar for burnt offerings (Ezra 3:1–6), and in the second year of the return the foundation of the temple was laid (Ezra 3:8–13; 5:16). However, Samaritan harassment and eventual Persian pressure brought a halt to the rebuilding of the temple. Then spiritual apathy set in; and for about 16 more years—until the rule of the Persian king, Darius Hystaspes (521–486 BC)—the construction of the temple was discontinued. In the second year of Darius (520 BC) God raised up Haggai the prophet to encourage the Jews in the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 5:1–2; Haggai 1:1). His task was to arouse the leaders and the people of Judah from their spiritual lethargy and to encourage them to continue working on the temple. The initial success of Haggai in his mission (Haggai 1:12–15) was supplemented by the continued efforts of Zechariah until the temple reconstruction was finished in 515 BC. -Bible Knowledge Commentary

Solomon's Temple Destroyed on 9th day of Av

First Temple built by King Solomon destroyed (burned) by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 586 BC

Construction described: 1 Kings 5:1-12, 6:38

Destruction described: 2 Kings 25:1-12, Jeremiah 52:29

Officials and priests were killed as well as countless other Jews. Many thousands who escaped the genocide were taken captive by the Babylonians, bringing an end to the Davidic Empire and beginning the first exile out of the Promised Land.



According to Jewish teaching, the First Temple was destroyed due to the sins of murder, adultery and idol worship.

<https://kehilaneews.com/2017/07/31/jews-commemorate-tisha-bav-on-tuesday/>



Solomon's Temple Destroyed on 9th day of Av

Now in the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month (of King Zedekiah's reign—January 588 BC), Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, camped against it and built a siege wall all around it. So the city was under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month (of King Zedekiah's 11th year – July 586 BC) the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. **Then the city was broken into, and all the men of war fled** by night by way of the gate between the two walls beside the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. And they went by way of the Arabah. 2 Kings 25:1-4

Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. **He burned the house of the Lord**, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire. 2 Kings 25:8-9

Tisha B'Av תשעה באב

The 9th day of the Hebrew month of Av

Tisha B'Av is regarded as the **saddest day on the Jewish calendar** and is believed to be a day destined for tragedy.

No.	English	Hebrew	days	equivalent
1	Nisan	ניסן	30	Mar - Apr
2	Iyar	אייר	29	Apr - May
3	Sivan	סיון	30	May - Jun
4	Tammuz	תמוז	29	Jun - Jul
5	Av	אב	30	Jul - Aug
6	Elul	אלול	29	Aug - Sep
7	Tishrei	תשרי	30	Sep - Oct
8	Cheshvan	חשוון	29/30	Oct - Nov
9	Kislev	כסליו	30/29	Nov - Dec
10	Tevet	טבת	29	Dec - Jan
11	Shevat	שבט	30	Jan - Feb
12L	Adar I	אדר א'	30	leap year
12	Adar	אדר ב'	29	Feb - Mar

What else happened on 9 Av?

Second Temple destroyed by Romans in 70 AD

Destruction of the Second Temple fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus in Matthew 24 and Luke 21.

“Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, ‘Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, **not one stone here will be left upon another**, which will not be torn down.’” Matthew 24:1-2

*prophecy of Jesus spoken in approx. 29 AD



Key People

1. **Haggai** – one of the twelve minor prophets; little biographical information is known about him
2. **Zerubbabel** – recipient of Haggai’s prophetic message; governor or governmental official. Zerubbabel was the heir apparent to the throne of David, being the grandson of King Jehoiachin (1 Chron. 3:17–19; cf. Matt. 1:12, where Jehoiachin is called Jeconiah).
3. **Joshua** – the high priest in Haggai’s day; Joshua the high priest (also called ‘Jeshua’ in Ezra and Nehemiah) was the son of the Jehozadak who had been taken into exile in 587 (1 Chron. 6:15). He was a leading priest, if not already the high priest, from 537 BC onwards (Ezra 2:2, 36, 40; 3:2). God had special words for him in Zech. 3 and 6:11–13. His name suggests ‘God saves’, and is the Hebrew form behind the Greek ‘Jesus’.
4. **People** - Those described in the book as ‘the people’ were the remnant of those who had gone into exile in Babylon, and had now returned to Judah (Haggai 1:14; Ezra 4:1). Their first attempt to rebuild the temple had been opposed by the local people then living in Samaria (Ezra 4:17–24).
5. **Darius** - Darius I, son of Hystaspes, who ruled Babylonia from 522–486 BC. He followed Cambyses (530–522 BC), who had followed his father Cyrus (539–530 BC; see Ezra 1).

During the ministry of Haggai

- Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began the work and appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the Lord. Ezra 3:8
- Now when the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people of the exile were building a temple to the Lord God of Israel, they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we, like you, seek your God; and we have been sacrificing to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here." But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of fathers' households of Israel said to them, "You have nothing in common with us in building a house to our God; but we ourselves will together build to the Lord God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia has commanded us." Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and frightened them from building, and hired counselors against them to frustrate their counsel all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia. Ezra 4:1-6

THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL

In the second year of Darius the king (520 BC), on the first day of the sixth month (1 Elul = August 29), the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, Haggai 1:1

Since this was the day of the new moon, it was probably a holy festival day in Jerusalem (Isaiah 1:14; Hosea 2:11). This provided the Prophet Haggai with a ready audience to listen to the first word of the Lord that broke the postexilic prophetic silence. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL
Scale of English Miles

“Thus says the Lord of hosts (Yahweh Sabbaot יהוה צבאות), ‘This **people** says, “The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt.” ’ ” Haggai 1:1-2

Are we **too busy** to pay attention to God?

Are we **too busy** to do God’s work?

THE KINGDOMS OF
THE TWELVE MINOR PROPHETS

Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, “Is it time for you [plural] yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses [prosperity and comfort] while this house lies desolate?” Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, “**Consider your ways!** You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.” Haggai 1:3-6

* In building for themselves but not for Him, the people apparently didn't mind whether the Lord lived among them or not. Their priorities are revealed by their attitude. – New Bible Commentary

“Consider your ways”

- Literally “Set your hearts on your ways.”
- Five times Haggai wrote, “Give careful thought to” (1:5, 1:7; 2:15, 2:18 [twice])
- They needed to reappraise their perverted priorities and give preeminence to God and their relationships with Him. What they had done was deplorable; and it was also fruitless. Their self-centeredness had not produced economic stability. Their abundant plantings had resulted in only meager harvests (cf. 1:10–11; 2:15–17, 19). The simplest necessities of life—food, drink, and clothing—were not being met. The resulting inflation is pictured graphically: You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it. The implication is strong that these economic conditions were divine chastening for disobedience (cf. Lev. 26:18–20; Deut. 28:38–40). All their efforts at farming and wage-earning availed nothing because they had not put the Lord first. Their ancestors who had gone into captivity had experienced the same retribution (cf. Deut. 28:41), but God wanted better things of the returned exiles.

– Bible Knowledge Commentary



THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Thus says the Lord of hosts, **“Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified,”** says the Lord. **“You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why?”** declares the Lord of hosts, **“Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house. Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce. I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil [from olive trees], on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands.”** Haggai 1:7-11

“I called for a drought on the land” Haggai 1:11

- The absence of rain and dew indicates God’s curse on the land and its people because of their disobedience to the covenant.
- The Lord said, “I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze. Your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce and the trees of the land will not yield their fruit.” Leviticus 26:19–20
- “The Lord will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew, and they will pursue you until you perish. The heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron. The Lord will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.” Deuteronomy 28:22–24

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 showed reverence for the Lord** [feared the Lord]. Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke by the commission of the Lord to the people saying, “**‘I am with you,’ declares the Lord.**” Haggai 1:12-13

So 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 sixth month [24 Elul = September 21, 520 BC] in the second year of Darius the king.

Haggai 1:14-15

There had been a delay of 23 days between the original prophecy (1:1) and the resumption of the work (1:15). This delay is explained by two factors: (a) the harvest of figs, grapes, and pomegranates was in Elul, the same sixth month, and (b) a period of planning and gathering of materials probably preceded the actual reconstruction. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

On the twenty-first of the seventh month [21 Tishri = October 17, 520 BC], the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet saying, “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying,” Haggai 2:1-2

* This was nearly a month after the people had resumed the rebuilding of the temple (1:15). In this period the progress in rebuilding was slow, no doubt because of the laborious task of cleaning up 60 years of rubble and the cessation of work during the numerous festivals of the seventh month—the weekly Sabbaths, the Feast of Trumpets on the first day, the Day of Atonement on the 10th, and the Feast of Booths from Tishri 15 to 21, with Tishri 22 also being a rest day (Lev. 23). – Bible Knowledge Commentary

“Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison? But now **take courage** [be strong], Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord, ‘**take courage** also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and **all you people** of the land **take courage,**’ declares the Lord, ‘**and work;** for **I am with you,**’ declares the Lord of hosts.” Haggai 2:3-4

David said to Solomon...“Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be courageous and act.” 1 Chronicles 28:10

Then David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.” 1 Chronicles 28:20

Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ households, **the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice** when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy... Ezra 3:12

THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL
Scale of English Miles

“As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, **My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!**” Haggai 2:5

...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11:29

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

For thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, **I am going to shake** the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. **I will shake** all the nations [earthquake as divine judgment]; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house [future Millennial temple] with glory [**כְּבוֹד** *kabod*],' 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 will be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace [**שְׁלוֹמִים** *shalom*],' declares the Lord of hosts." Haggai 2:6-9 (quoted in Hebrews 12:26-27)

- "The mountains quaked at the presence of the Lord, this Sinai, at the presence of the Lord, the God of Israel." Judges 5:5
- "Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you." Isaiah 60:5
- Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance. Zechariah 14:14

Earthquake when Messiah Comes

- The Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the **earth tremble**. But the Lord is a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the sons of Israel. Joel 3:16
- Jesus said... “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the **powers of the heavens will be shaken**. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:29-30

Earthquake when Messiah Comes

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, **“Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.”** This expression, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:26-29

The next word that came to Haggai involved asking the priests to give a ruling. They explained that holiness was not communicated by touch, but defilement was. For example, anyone who touched a dead body became unclean for a week, and anything he touched became unclean. **God said that this teaching could be applied to the people. Their indifference to God's presence spoiled not only their offerings but also everything else they did.** Believers need to be ruthless with careless attitudes, which are not merely neutral but positively defiling, and ask God for cleansing (Matt. 5:29–30; 2 Tim. 2:20–21; cf. Zeph. 1:7). Failures in this area will blight a church and society. – New Bible Commentary

‘The one who touches the corpse of any person shall be unclean for seven days.’ Numbers 19:11

‘Furthermore, anything that the unclean person touches shall be unclean; and the person who touches it shall be unclean until evening.’ Numbers 19:22

On the twenty-fourth of the ninth month [24 Kislev = December 18, 520 BC], in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Haggai the prophet, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Ask now the priests for a [ceremonial] ruling: 'If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?' " And the priests answered, "No." Then Haggai said, "If one who is unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will the latter become unclean?" And the priests answered, "It will become unclean." Haggai 2:10-13

*"Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'This is the law of the sin offering: in the place where the burnt offering is slain the sin offering shall be slain before the Lord; it is most holy.' 'The priest who offers it for sin shall eat it. It shall be eaten in a holy place, in the court of the tent of meeting. Anyone who touches its flesh will become consecrated; and when any of its blood splashes on a garment, in a holy place you shall wash what was splashed on.'" Leviticus 6:25-27

*and the one who picks up their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening; they are unclean to you. Leviticus 11:28

Then Haggai said, “ ‘**So is this people. And so is this nation before Me,**’ declares the Lord, ‘**and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean** [disobedience renders even sacrificial worship unacceptable]. But now, do **consider from this day onward:** before one stone was placed on another in the temple of the Lord, from that time when one came to a grain heap of twenty measures, there would be only ten [50% reduction]; and when one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there would be only twenty [60% reduction]. **I smote you and every work of your hands** with blasting wind, mildew and hail; **yet you did not come back to Me,**’ declares the Lord.’ ” Haggai 2:14-17

“ ‘Do consider **from this day onward**, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month; **from the day when the temple of the Lord was founded**, consider: Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree, it has not borne fruit [The drought of divine judgment had already affected the year’s harvest so that their barns were already emptied of the sparse harvest. They had neither staples (seed, or grapes, or olives) nor luxuries (figs and pomegranates)]. **Yet from this day on I will bless you** [Their faithful obedience in continuing to rebuild would enable them to experience God’s blessing].’ ” Haggai 2:18-19

*Blight (crop disease) and mildew are linked in several passages that deal with divine judgment for disobedience (Deut. 28:22; 1 Kings 8:37; 2 Chron. 6:28; Amos 4:9). Hail also occurs in many judgment passages (Ex. 9:25; Isa. 28:2; 30:30). For an agricultural society such punishments were catastrophic to the economy and to survival. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

- God was at pains to show that it was the laying of the foundation stone which brought about a sudden, marked change. It seems likely that at the ceremony the people would have gathered together. In the days of the former temple, the greatest spiritual advances were made when the people assembled together (1 Kings 8:14; 65–66; 2 Kings 23:1–2, 21–23). This gathering at Haggai’s prompting was in contrast to their earlier actions, when they worked separately on their own houses (1:4, 9). **We might say that the one main achievement in our text was that the people began to act together and so became united.**
- The significance of a nation-wide act of obedience on a particular day can also be noted during the first entry into the promised land (Joshua 5:9). Here too we might have expected that the ‘reproach of Egypt’ would have been removed long before, but it seems there was a delay which was only ended by the whole nation obeying the instruction about circumcision. This was because circumcision and the ownership of the land were connected in the covenant made with Abraham (Genesis 17:1–14).
- If we understand the laying of the foundation stone of the temple as a significant occasion in this sense, then this day would have been a turning point. God seems to have been noting the commitment of the people, and rewarding it. **We may learn then that God rewards decisive action taken by His people acting together.**

THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL
Scale of English Miles

Then the word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month [24 Kislev = December 18, 520 BC], saying, “Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, ‘I am going to shake the heavens and the earth [political upheaval, the defeat of powerful armies, and civil strife].’ ”

Haggai 2:20-21

*As the people had needed encouragement to rebuild, perhaps Zerubbabel needed encouragement to lead this seemingly insignificant group of Jews who resided in a corner of the vast Persian Empire. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

The Lord said, “ ‘I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.’ ”

Haggai 2:22

This is reminiscent of the destruction of Gentile world powers represented in the great image in Daniel 2. There the worldwide messianic kingdom will replace the Gentile kingdoms (Daniel 2:34–35, 44–45). The overthrowing of chariots and the fall of horses and their riders indicate that this change in world government will be military as well as political. In the confusion of this great Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16–18) at the Lord’s second coming (Rev. 19:11–21) many a man will turn the sword against his own brother (cf. Zech. 12:2–9; 14:1–5). – Bible Knowledge Commentary

THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

Daniel 2:44-45

“On that day,’ declares the Lord of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,’ ” declares the Lord of hosts.
Haggai 2:23

- Such a ring was a costly item and may have been worn on the finger or round the neck on a chain; it was always attached closely to its owner, and would never be lost or abandoned. This speaks of Zerubbabel’s value to God. It seems that such rings were used to stamp the royal seal on a document; this suggests that God entrusted Zerubbabel with authority to carry out his will. – New Bible Commentary
- Prominent in this verse: (a) the Lord will fulfill this prophecy on the future day of Gentile judgment (cf. vv. 21–22); (b) the Lord will make Zerubbabel ... like My signet ring; and (c) the Lord had chosen Zerubbabel as the channel of the Davidic line and therefore representative or typical of the Messiah. The title My servant frequently marked out the Davidic king (cf. the “Servant songs” in Isa. [42:1–9; 49:1–13; 50:4–11; 52:13–53:12] and also cf. 2 Sam. 3:18; 1 Kings 11:34; Ezek. 34:23–24; 37:24–25). Haggai’s contemporary, Zechariah, used the messianic title “Branch” to refer to Zerubbabel (Zech. 3:8; 6:12; cf. Isa. 11:1; Jer. 23:5–6; 33:14–16).
- The significance of comparing Zerubbabel to a “signet ring” (a seal of royal authority or personal ownership) is clarified by the imagery in Jeremiah 22:24–25. God said that if Jehoiachin (Zerubbabel’s grandfather) were His signet ring, He would pull him off His hand and give him over to Nebuchadnezzar. Haggai was saying that in Zerubbabel God was reversing the curse pronounced on Jehoiachin. Zerubbabel’s place in the line of messianic descent (Matt. 1:12) confirmed his representative role in typifying the Messiah. Since the words “on that day” point to a yet-future fulfillment in the Messianic Age, it is wrong to suggest that Zerubbabel would actually rule as the anointed one on the Davidic throne in Haggai’s day. This was not intended any more than the crowning of Joshua the high priest (Zech. 3:1–10) indicated he would have political rule over Israel. The crowning of Joshua was clearly symbolic of things yet to be fulfilled by the Messiah (Zech. 6:9–15). Joshua was portrayed in Zechariah’s vision in his official capacity as high priest rather than in his own person. Similarly Zerubbabel was owned as the Lord’s “signet ring” in his representative position as the son of David, not for personal fulfillment in his own lifetime but for messianic fulfillment in the kingdom of the final Son of David (cf. Luke 1:32–33). An alternate interpretation sees Zerubbabel exercising delegated authority with David during the future millennial reign of Christ.
– Bible Knowledge Commentary

Construction of the Second Temple is completed

“And the elders of the Jews were successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. **This temple was completed** on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.” Ezra 6:14-15

* The temple was completed in Adar (February–March) of 515 BC –21 years after the work started in 536 BC, and 4.5 years after Haggai began his prophesying. This was 70.5 years after the temple had been destroyed on August 12, 586 BC (9th of Av).

Lessons from the Book of Haggai

- Be careful that we are not too busy to walk with God.
- Take courage and serve God even if the culture discourages it.
- The origin of true joy in the lives of believers is dedication to the work of God and His glory.
- Serving God without loving God bears no spiritual fruit.
- God rewards decisive action taken by His people acting together.
- The Lord remembers His covenant promises.
- Messiah is coming and the whole earth will be shaken by His arrival.

THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Scale of English Miles

**Are you ready for the
arrival of Messiah Jesus?**

THE KINGDOMS
OF
JUDAH AND ISRAEL

Scale of English Miles



A Time To Respond

