

HAGGAI

“His prophecy is written in prose, which is very significant, for in Scripture God’s thoughts are more often communicated by prose, and his ‘feelings’ by poetry. So there is little of God’s ‘feelings’ in the book. It’s as if God is fed up; he doesn’t ‘feel’ anymore.” (Pawson, 2007, p. 444)

Author: Haggai (name means “festive, festival”)

Date: 520 BC – date is precise and is the most precise in the Bible since Haggai mentions “the second year of Darius the king (1:1) which can be verified by Persian records.

Big Point: Jews returning from exile need to rebuild God’s temple.

Message: Haggai encourages former Babylonian captives to restore the demolished temple in Jerusalem. Persia is the new world power and has allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem, and Haggai warns them to rebuild, however, the Jews begin working on their own homes. God tells the people to rebuild the temple first in order to break a drought that is affecting the countryside.

Memorable Verses:

Haggai 1:9 | “You expected much, but then it amounted to little. When you brought the harvest to your house, I ruined it. Why? . . . Because my house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house.”

Haggai 2:7-8 | “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD Almighty.”

Haggai 2:9 | “The final glory of this house will be great than the first,’ says the LORD of Armies. ‘I will provide peace in this place’ – this is the declaration of the LORD of Armies.”

Unique: Once this temple was rebuilt, the glory of it was greater than before as Jesus himself would enter into it when in Jerusalem. “It is also significant to note how the word of the LORD is described in Haggai. We are told it did not come ‘to’ Haggai, as to other prophets, but ‘by’ Haggai. So this is a word of insight rather than a revelation that he saw” (Pawson, 2007, p. 444).

Outline of Book:

1. Sermon about conviction (1)
 - a. A Rebuke (1:1-6) - Dissatisfaction
 - b. A Reminder (1:7-8)
 - c. A Response (1:9-15) - Discipline
2. Sermon about Courage (2:1-9)
 - a. Because of God’s Presence (2:4)
 - b. Because of God’s Promise (2:5)
 - c. Because of God’s Provision (2:7-8)
3. Sermon about cleanliness (2:10-19)
 - a. Defilement (2:10-14)
 - b. Dependency (2:15-19)
4. Sermon about Consummation (2:20-23)

*This overview adapted by permission, Dr. Bryan R. Jones (2017)