

# Haggai

Spiritual Apathy

# Introduction

- ∞ Haggai: prophet to remnant (cf. Ezra 5:1)
- ∞ Date: 520 B.C. (4 months)
- ∞ Setting: Early post-exile
- ∞ Theme: Spiritual Apathy
- ∞ Message: Covenant obedience (*rebuild temple*) will bring covenant blessings (*glory, blessing, victory*)!

# Timeline

## Exiles Return:

(1) Zerubbabel (537)  
[Rebuild stopped, Ez. 3-4]

**Temple Restart (520)**

Esther in Persia

(2) Ezra (457)  
[Rebuild stopped, 4:11f]

(3) Nehemiah (444)

## Persian Rulers:

Cyrus (537-30)

**Darius I (522-486)**

Ahasuerus/Xerxes (485-65)

Artaxerxes I (464-24)

# Oracle #1 – Rebuild!

- ∞ Rebuild: “Time has not yet come!” (1:1-11)
- *Charge*: (2-4): temple had not been rebuilt, but lavish homes showed misplaced priority
  - *Consequence*: (5-6, 9-11): poverty from drought is God’s judgment for sin
  - *Call*: (7-8) rebuild temple for God’s glory!

# Interlude - Response

- ∞ Repent: ‘The people feared YHWH’ (1:12-15)
- *Change*: people heard Haggai’s message and repented, changing their attitude (**feared**) and actions (**obeyed**). The rebuilding began only twenty-three days after the initial message.
  - *Courage*: in response, God assured the people of His continued presence, ‘I’m with you’ (13)

# Oracle #2 – Future Glory

- ∞ Reassure: ‘Glory shall be greater...’ (2:1-9)
- *Covenant*: (1-5) Near the anniversary of temple dedication (1 Kgs. 8:2), YHWH reminds people of His continuing presence.
  - *Courage*: (6-9) reassures people that glory of this temple would be greater than former. Perhaps, a future temple (Isa. 2, Ezek. 43) or reference to Messiah (Isa. 60:1-3, Lk. 2:32).

# Oracle #3 – Future Blessing

- ∞ Responsible: ‘Consider recent past’ (2:10-19)
  - *Contact*: (11-14) Holiness is not transferrable, unlike ritual uncleanness. Their offerings did not cover but were tainted by their sin!
  - *Courage* (15-19) Past economic poverty was due to disobedience (Deut. 28-30), but God promised to reward their obedience!

# Oracle #4 – Future Victory

- ∞ Rule: ‘I am about to destroy...’ (2:20-23)
- *Cosmic* (20-22): YHWH promises victory of cosmic proportions (2:6-7), defeating earthly enemies.
  - *Chosen* (23): YHWH promises to restore Davidic rule through His ‘servant’ (Ezek. 34:24) reversing the previous curse on Jehoiachin (cf. Jer. 22:24)

God did not immediately bring victory over earthly kingdoms or raise Zerubbabel to the reclaim David's throne. How do we explain the unfulfilled nature of Haggai's prophecy?

- Misguided?
- Contingent on Israel's obedience, and thus postponed due to disobedience? (cf. Jer. 18)
- Zerubbabel as representative Davidic figure (Ezek. 34:24, temple, 2:1-9)?

# Summary

Haggai confronted the remnant's misplaced priorities, urging them to complete the rebuilding. When the people repented, God reassured them of His continuing presence, promising future glory for the temple, future blessing for their obedience, and future victory under restored Davidic rule.