

Old Testament Survey

Haggai

The Meaning of Haggai

The name of Haggai means “festal.” This is because it was possible that he was born on some feast day. Haggai’s theme is that if the people of God will put God first, then God will bless them in their endeavors.

General Outline of Haggai

- I. First Message: Neglect of the Temple is the Cause of Economic Depression - Haggai 1:1-15
- II. Second Message: Though Less Pretentious, the Second Temple Will Be More Glorious Than the First - Haggai 2:1-9
- III. Third Message: Unholiness Vitiates Sacrifice, Selfishness Leads to Crop Failure - Haggai 2:10-19
- IV. Fourth Message: God Will Finally Triumph - Haggai 2:20-23

Authorship and Date of Composition

1. Haggai stands alone as the one book in the Old Testament that is uncontested by any critic.
2. The date assigned to each message is deemed to be authentic, and the book itself is ascribed to the historical prophet Haggai.
 - a. Sermon 1 - Elul 1 (Aug-Sept) 520 B.C.
 - b. Sermon 2 - Tishri 21 (Sept-Oct) 520 B.C.
 - c. Sermons 3 and 4 - Chislev 24 (Dec-Jan) 520 B.C.

Historical Background of Haggai

1. Haggai’s time was a time of severe testing for the returning remnant from Persia.
2. The rebuilding of the Temple, started some fourteen years prior, had been stopped due to the opposition of the enemies of Judah. Instead of building the temple, the Judean leaders were more interested in building their own homes. As a result, God sent famine and leanness.
3. Both Haggai and Zechariah prophesied to the remnant encouraging them to rebuild the temple. Only then will God remove his hand of judgment.
4. The message of both Haggai and Zechariah were heeded, the temple being completed four years later in 516 B.C.