

Outline of Haggai

The book of Haggai consists of four prophetic messages from God to the leaders and people of Israel who had returned from the exile. These messages center around the call to rebuild the temple and the blessings and curses that are associated with either rebuilding or not doing so. The final message has to do with the defeat of the Gentile kingdoms which have caused so much difficulty for Israel over the years. Haggai's name means "festive."

- I. First Message: Rebuild the Temple for the Glory of God 1:1-15
 - A. The Setting: August 520 B.C. 1:1
 - B. The Content of the Message..... 1:2-11
 - 1. Disobedience of the People 1:2-4
 - 2. Consequences of Disobedience (Curses) 1:5-6, 9-11
 - 3. Call to Build for God's Pleasure and Glory 1:7-8
 - C. The People's Obedience and God's Stirring 1:12-15

- II. Second Message: Encouragement..... 2:1-9
 - A. The Setting: October 520 B.C. 2:1
 - B. The Comparative Question about the Glory of the Temple 2:2-3
 - C. The Future Glory of the Temple in the Age of Peace 2:4-9

- III. Third Message: 2:10-19
 - A. The Setting: December 520 B.C.; after Temple is done 2:10
 - B. The Question about Principles of Clean and Unclean..... 2:11-13
 - C. The Application of the Principle (Why Curses)..... 2:14-17
 - D. Obedience Brings Reversal of Curse 2:18-19

- IV: Fourth Message: 2:20-23
 - A. The Setting: Same Time as the Third Message 2:20
 - B. Physical and Political Disturbance..... 2:21-22
 - C. Exaltation of Zerubbabel 2:23

Notes

- Notice the number of times the "word of the LORD" or "thus saith the LORD of hosts" or similar phrases are mentioned (27 times in 38 verses).
- Notice the timeline of events:
 1. 538 B.C. – Ezra 1:1-4 – Cyrus makes a proclamation that the temple is to be rebuilt. People return to the land.
 2. 537/536 B.C. – Ezra 3:8 – Zerubbabel and Joshua begin to rebuild the temple.
 3. 535-521 B.C. – Ezra 4:1-5, 23 – Through the reign of Cyrus until the reign of Darius, the efforts of the people are opposed.
 4. 520 B.C. – The building of the temple is apparently finished by this point.
 5. 520-464 B.C. – Ezra 4:6-23 – Opposition to the work on the city continues throughout the reigns of Darius (521-486 B.C., 35 years) and of Ahasuerus (485-465 B.C., 20 years).

6. 464-423 B.C. – Artaxerxes I reigns over Persia.
 7. 458 B.C. – Ezra returns to Jerusalem.
 8. 444 B.C. – Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem. Opposition continues through the building of the walls of the city. The work of God is opposed constantly throughout the period from 535 to 444, about 90 years.
 9. 433 B.C. – Nehemiah makes another trip to Jerusalem.
- Notice the lack of care for the Lord's temple
 - Earnest consideration would produce understanding that the covenant (2:5) was at issue here. Blessing for obedience, cursing for rebellion is the general pattern of the covenant promises of God, though ultimate fulfillment is assured because of God's grace.
 - Note the obedience of the people. God did a work on them and they did a work on His temple.
 - See Ezra 3:12-13 regarding the former glory of the temple.
 - There is a heavy note of eschatological hope in 2:6-9, 21-23. This has to be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom.