

HAGGAI was a prophet of the restored remnant after the 70 years' captivity. The circumstances are detailed in Ezra and Nehemiah. To hearten, rebuke, and instruct that feeble and divided remnant was the task of Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The *theme* of Haggai is the unfinished temple, and his *mission* to admonish and encourage the builders.

The divisions of the book are marked by the formula, "came the word of the LORD by Haggai": I. The event which drew out the prophecy, 1. 1, 2. II. The divine displeasure because of the interrupted work, 1. 3-15. III. The temples—Solomon's, the restoration temple, and the kingdom-age temple, 2. 1-9. IV. Uncleaness and chastening, 2. 10-19. V. The final victory, 2. 20-23 (see Rev. 19. 17-20; 14. 19, 20; Zech. 14. 1-3).

CHAPTER 1.

Part I. The occasion and theme of the prophecy (v. 2, 1.c).

IN the ^asecond year of Darius the king, in the ^bsixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by ^cHaggai the prophet unto ^dZerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to ^eJoshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

Part II. (1) Jehovah's chastening because of the interrupted work.

3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 *Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house *lie* waste?

5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to *put it* into a bag with holes.

7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, *it* came to little; and when ye brought

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it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that *is* waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

10 Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed *from* her fruit.

11 And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon *that* which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

(2) *The work recommenced.*

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, 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 did ^ffear before the LORD.

13 Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I *am* with you, saith the LORD.

14 And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the ^gremnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

15 In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

^a Hag.2.10;
Ezra 4.24;
Zech.1.1,7.

^b i.e. *September*; also v. 15.

^c Ezra 5.1;
6.14.

^d 1 Chr.3.19;
Ezra 2.2;
Neh.7.7;
Zech.4.6;
Mt.1.12,13.

^e Ezra 3.2;
Neh.12.1;
Zech.3.1-5;
6.11,12.

^f Psa.19.9,
note.

^g *Remnant.*
Zech.8.6-12.
(Isa.1.9;
Rom.11.5.)

CHAPTER 2.

Part III. The temples.

IN the ^aseventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying,

2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,

3 ^bWho is left among you that saw this ¹house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? *is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?*

4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I *am* with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; ^cYet once, it *is* a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

7 And I will shake all nations, and the ^ddesire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

8 The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

9 The ^eglory of this latter ²house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

Part IV. The chastening of the LORD for the impurity of the priests, and delay of the people (vs. 15-19).

10 In the four and twentieth day

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of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

11 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying;

12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.

13 Then said Haggai, If *one that is unclean* by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.

14 Then answered Haggai, and said, So *is* this people, and so *is* this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so *is* every work of their hands; and that which they offer there *is* unclean.

15 And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD:

16 Since those days were, when *one* came to an heap of twenty measures, there were *but* ten: when *one* came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were *but* twenty.

17 I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye *turned* not to me, saith the LORD.

18 Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, *even* from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider *it*.

19 Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless *you*.

a i.e. October.

b Cf. Ezra 3. 12.

c Heb. 12. 26.

d Christ (First Advent). Zech. 9. 9. (Gen. 3. 15; Acts 1. 9.)

e Or, the future glory of this house shall be greater than the former.

¹ The prophet calls the old men who remembered Solomon's temple to witness to the new generation how greatly that structure exceeded the present in magnificence; and he then utters a prophecy (vs. 7-9) which can only refer to the future kingdom temple described by Ezekiel. It is certain that the restoration temple and all subsequent structures, including Herod's, were far inferior in costliness and splendour to Solomon's. The present period is described in Hos. 3. 4, 5. Verse 6 is quoted in Heb. 12. 26, 27. Verse 7: "I will shake all nations," refers to the great tribulation and is followed by the coming of Christ in glory, as in Mt. 24. 29, 30. "The desire of all nations" is Christ. See Mal. 3. 1, note.

² In a sense all the temples (i.e. Solomon's; Ezra's; Herod's; that which will be used by the unbelieving Jews under covenant with the Beast [Dan. 9. 27; Mt. 24. 15; 2 Thes. 2. 3, 4]; and Ezekiel's future kingdom temple [Ezk. 40.-47.]), are treated as one "house"—the "house of the LORD," since they all profess to be that. For that reason Christ purified the temple of His day, erected though it was by an Idumean usurper to please the Jews (Mt. 21. 12, 13).

Part V. The future destruction of Gentile power.

20 And again the word of the LORD came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying,

21 Speak to Zerubbabel, ^agovernor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;

22 And I will ^boverthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will de-

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^a Hag. 1.1;
Ezra 5.1-3;
Zech. 4.6-10.

^b Dan. 2.34,
35, 44, 45;
Rev. 19.11-21.

^c i.e. nations.

^d Song 8.6;
Jer. 22.24.

^e Isa. 42.1;
43.10.

stroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

23 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, ^dand will make thee as a signet: for ^eI have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.