




LOGOS

Haggai



Session 7: Haggai
12 September 2023



The Book of the Twelve

8th Century BCE – Isaiah

Amos

Hosea

Micah

7th Century BCE – Jeremiah

Nahum

Zephaniah

Habakkuk

6th Century BCE – Ezekiel

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

The outliers- likely postexilic

Jonah

Obadiah

Joel

Authorship and Setting



- Clarity of dates and authorship
- Haggai the prophet (message not messenger)
- Short time frame – 6 month period.

- Persians overthrow Babylon
 2nd Exile, 587 BCE, about 70 years passes
 520 BCE, return and rebuild

Key characters

- Haggai the Prophet
- Zerubbabel the Governor (Davidic line)
- Joshua the High Priest



Context – social upheaval

- Redistribution of land between those who remained and those who returned.
- Reordering of governance.
- Hope and the challenging work of rebuilding.
- Poverty.



Overview

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Haggai

Book of Haggai Summary: A Complete Animated Overview

HAGGAI

THE CHALLENGE OF HAGGAI

- OUR CHOICES MATTER.
- THE OBEYANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE IS PART OF HOW GOD WORKS IN THE WORLD.
- THIS SHOULD MOTIVATE HUMILITY & ACTION.

1:1-15 ACCUSATION & RESPONSE

587 B.C. (SEE 2 KINGS 25)
BABYLON'S COMING! RESISTANCE! FLEE!
BUT THERE'S HOPE!
NEW JERUSALEM
HEBREW PROPHETS

520 B.C. (FOURTEEN YEARS LATER)
JERUSALEM PERISHES
520 B.C. (FOURTEEN YEARS LATER)
SEE EZRA 4:1-6
JOSHUA (High Priest)
ZEPHUBAHIEL (from the line of David)

THE FUTURE SEEMS BRIGHT... BUT NOT FROM HAGGAI'S POINT OF VIEW

1:1-15 ACCUSATION & RESPONSE

THE TEMPLE

IT'S NOT TIME TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE!
ARE YOUR HOUSES MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO GOD?
THIS IS COVENANT REBELLION! SEE DEUTERONOMY 28:25

JOSHUA & ZEPHUBAHIEL

THE PEOPLE SET TO WORK (SEE EZRA 5:1-2)

2:1-9 ADDRESSING SHATTERED EXPECTATIONS

ONE MONTH LATER

ELDERLY WHO REMEMBER SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

REMEMBER THE PROMISE OF GOD'S FUTURE KINGDOM!

NEW TEMPLE

THE NATIONS JOIN GOD'S KINGDOM (SEE ISAIAH 9:6-62; MICAH 4-5)

2:10-19 CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

TWO MONTHS LATER

A CONVERSATION ABOUT RITUAL PURITY (REMEMBER LEVITICS)

THIS GUY'S RITUALLY IMPURE FROM TOUCHING A DEAD BODY... AS THE FOOD IMPURE TOO? YES!
THAT'S WHAT THESE PEOPLE ARE LIKE!

THE WILDNESS GENERATION

OBEDIENCE-BLESSING (LEAVENING-ROOM) (SEE DEUTERONOMY 30)

THE EXILED GENERATION

MOSES

HAGGAI

ONLY TRUE REPENTANCE & OBEDIENCE WILL BRING ABOUT THE COMING OF GOD'S KINGDOM

2:20-23 FUTURE HOPE OF GOD'S KINGDOM

THAT SAME DAY

ESTABLISHMENT OF MESSIANIC KING (ZEPHUBAHIEL?)

NEW JERUSALEM

DEFEAT EVIL AMONG THE NATIONS

WILL HAGGAI'S GENERATION EXPERIENCE THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE? (ZEPHUBAHIEL THE MESSIAH?)

KEEP READING!

That is the message of the book of Haggai.

5:35 / 5:36

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juPvv_xcX-U

Haggai I

The Command to Rebuild the Temple

I In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest: ² Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house. ³ Then the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: ⁴ Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your panelled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵ Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. ⁶ You have sown much, and harvested little; you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and you that earn wages earn wages to put them into a bag with holes.

⁷ Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. ⁸ Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured, says the Lord. ⁹ You have looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? says the Lord of hosts. Because my house lies in ruins, while all of you hurry off to your own houses. ¹⁰ Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. ¹¹ And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the soil produces, on human beings and animals, and on all their labours.

¹² Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of the prophet Haggai, as the Lord their God had sent him; and the people feared the Lord.

¹³ Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke to the people with the Lord's message, saying, I am with you, says the Lord. ¹⁴ And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, ¹⁵ on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month.

Group Discussion

The people are asked (by God/prophet) to consider how they have fared in verse 5 and 7.

A clear link is made between poverty/prosperity and obedience/building the temple.

We can see links here to the Deuteronomistic (covenantal) theology in other prophets of the exile period.

1. Discuss this in relation to the context of Haggai and the building project.
2. Discuss hope, inspiration, and motivation, in religious contexts.

Haggai 2

The Future Glory of the Temple

2 In the second year of King Darius, ¹ in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: ² Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, ³ Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? ⁴ Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, ⁵ according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear.

⁶ For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. ⁹ The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

Group Discussion

The people are feeling discouraged, even though they are only a few months into the build. The building project is framed as God's work, that God has all the resource necessary, and that God's Spirit is with them.

Discuss the positive and potentially negative social dynamics that might have been at work here and in religious projects more generally.

Haggai 2

A Rebuke and a Promise

¹⁰ On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: ¹¹ Thus says the Lord of hosts: Ask the priests for a ruling: ¹² If one carries consecrated meat in the fold of one's garment, and with the fold touches bread, or stew, or wine, or oil, or any kind of food, does it become holy? The priests answered, 'No.'

¹³ Then Haggai said, 'If one who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?' The priests answered, 'Yes, it becomes unclean.' ¹⁴ Haggai then said, So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, says the Lord; and so with every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.

¹⁵ But now, consider what will come to pass from this day on. Before a stone was placed upon a stone in the Lord's temple, ¹⁶ how did you fare?

When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty.

¹⁷ I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and mildew and hail; yet you did not return to me, says the Lord. ¹⁸ Consider from this day on, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid, consider: ¹⁹ Is there any seed left in the barn? Do the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree still yield nothing? From this day on I will bless you.

Group Discussion

A parable about contaminating sin.

Discuss the parable, what does it mean, how might it have been understood in this context of Levitical purity rules.

How might Old Testament understandings of purity or holiness relate to Jesus' teaching and actions?

How might Christians today understand this?

Haggai 2

God's Promise to Zerubbabel

²⁰ The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month: ²¹ Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, ²² and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders; and the horses and their riders shall fall, every one by the sword of a comrade. ²³ On that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, son of Shealtiel, says the Lord, and make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you, says the Lord of hosts.

Group Discussion

The book ends with a prophecy which appears to relate directly to Zerubbabel (of David's line).

However, the next two prophetic books; Zechariah and Malachi, turn the prophecy toward a coming Messiah and towards an eschatological hope of God's ultimate kingdom.

What can we learn from this book about holding on to ultimate hope in God, within a specific context or project?

How might this affect how we (as St Mark's) makes decisions about buildings and resources?



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Jonah

Session 8: Jonah
10 October 2023