

LIVING GODS WILL

Prophet of God

HAGGAI



The Prophet Haggai by Giovanni Pisano

Born: Babylon

Died: Unknown

Haggai was a **minor prophet** to **Zerubbabel** Governor of Judah.

Haggai prophesied rebuilding **Solomon's temple** in Jerusalem.

Haggai authored the **Book of Haggai (520 BC)**.

Haggai was **born in Babylon** during the exile and captivity of Israel.

Haggai was the **10th** of the 12 **minor prophets of God**.

Haggai was born in **Babylon** during the exile and captivity of Israel. He was a prophet to **Zerubbabel** the Governor of Judah.

Haggai authored the **Book of Haggai in 520 BC**.

Apart from **Obadiah**, the **Book of Haggai** is the shortest book in the OT, but its teachings are none the less significant. **Haggai** clearly shows the consequences of disobedience (**Haggai 1:6,11; 2:16–17**) and obedience (**Haggai 2:7–9,19**).

Obedience brings the encouragement and strength of the **Spirit of God (Haggai 2:4–5)**.

Haggai's messages are among the most carefully and precisely dated in the entire OT. They were given during a four-month period in **520 BC.**, the second year of **King Darius**.

Haggai was a prophet who, along with **Zechariah**, encouraged the returned exiles to rebuild the temple. **Haggai** means "**festal**," which may indicate that the prophet was born during one of the three pilgrimage feasts (Unleavened Bread, Pentecost or Weeks, and Tabernacles).

In **538 BC**, the conqueror of Babylon, **Cyrus king of Persia**, issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Led by **Zerubbabel**, about **50,000 Jews** journeyed home and began work on the temple.

About two years later (**536 BC**) they completed the foundation amid great rejoicing. Their success aroused the Samaritans and other neighbors who feared the political and religious implications of a rebuilt temple in a thriving Jewish state.

They therefore opposed the project vigorously and managed to halt work until **520 BC**, after **Darius the Great** became king of Persia in **522 BC**.

Haggai sought to challenge the people of **God** concerning their priorities. He called them to reverence and glorify **God** by building the Temple in spite of local and official opposition.

Haggai called them not to be discouraged because this Temple would not be quite as richly decorated as **Solomon's**. He exhorted them to turn from the uncleanness of their ways and to trust in **God's** sovereign power.

The **Book of Haggai** is a reminder of the problems the people of **God** faced at this time, how the people courageously trusted in **God**, and how **God** provided for their needs.

Will the people of **God** reconsider their priorities, take courage, and act on the basis of **God's** promises? **God** sought to warn the people to heed His words. Not only did **God** warn them, but He also offered promises through His servant **Haggai** to motivate them to follow Him.

Because the people of **God** reversed their priorities and failed to put **God** in first place in their lives, Judah was sent into Babylonian exile.

In response to **Daniel's** prayer and in fulfillment of **God's** promises, **God** directed **Cyrus** the Persian king to allow the Jews in exile to go back to Jerusalem.

A group of Jews returned to their land with great joy, put **God** first in their lives, worshiped Him, and began to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem without the aid of the local people who lived in Israel.

Their courageous faith was met with opposition from the local people as well as the Persian government for approximately **15 years**.

As with most of the books of the minor prophets, **Haggai** ends with promises of restoration and blessing. In the last verse, **Haggai 2:23**, **God** uses a distinctly messianic title in reference to Zerubbabel, "**My Servant**".

Through **Haggai**, **God** promises to make him like a signet ring, which was a symbol of honor, authority, and power, somewhat like a king's scepter used to seal letters and decrees.

Zerubbabel, as **God's** signet ring, represents the house of **David** and the resumption of the messianic line interrupted by the Exile.

Zerubbabel reestablished the Davidic line of kings which would culminate in the millennial reign of **Jesus**.

Zerubbabel appears in the line of **Jesus** on both **Joseph's** side (**Matt. 1:12**) and **Mary's** side (**Luke 3:27**).

The **Book of Haggai** draws attention to common problems most people face even today. **Haggai** asks us:

- 1) to examine our priorities to see if we are more interested in our own pleasures than doing the work of **God**;
- 2) to reject a defeatist attitude when we run into opposition or discouraging circumstances;
- 3) to confess our failures and seek to live pure lives before **God**;
- 4) to act courageously for **God** because we have the assurance that He is with us always and is in full control of our circumstances; and
- 5) to rest secure in **God's** hands knowing that He will abundantly bless us as we faithfully serve Him.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Haggai 1:1-4 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 Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, "Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built." ' ' Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?"

Haggai 1:12-13 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the 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 Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the Lord. Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, spoke the Lord's message to the people, saying, "I am with you, says the Lord."

Haggai 2:1-5 In the seventh month, on the twenty-first of the month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying: "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying: 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing? Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the Lord; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the Lord, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the Lord of hosts. 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!'

Haggai 2:20-22 And again the word of the Lord came to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying, "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth. I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother.



Prophet Haggai

at Kizhi monastery, Karelia, Russia