

Message: The Book of HAGGAI

Lord of Hope Ministries Int'l.
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Prelude:

Welcome:

Worship:

Message:

Today we are going to read the bible book of Haggai a book that most people do not know much about. Did you know this book is in the Bible? You will know the details by the time the service is over...

Let us pray...

The book is named after the prophet, Haggai, whose name means "festive" or "festival." Many believe the name was given because Haggai was born on or near a festival day. Some suggest that his name is related to the celebration of the prophetic hope concerning the temple and the glory of God. While the first suggestion is more probable, it is interesting to note that Haggai's ministry began on a new moon festival day and the book records the festivities which will be enjoyed when Yahweh rules in the Day of the Lord.

The Date

Haggai is the most precisely dated book of the Bible, with the dates of each sermon given to the exact day. The accuracy with which he records these dates suggests that he might have kept a journal. The beginning of Darius' reign is well established at 522 BC. Each of the four messages took place in the second year of his reign which would be 520 BC.

The Jews had been in captivity in Babylon for 70 years ([Jer. 25:11f.](#)) They were first deported in 606 BC. and the final destruction of the temple was in 586. When the Persians defeated the Babylonians in 539, Darius took over and changed the foreign policy concerning captive peoples. In 538 he decreed that the Jews could return to their homeland and rebuild the temple ([Ezra 1-3](#)).

After an initial stage of construction on the foundation ([Ezra 3:8-13](#)), opposition from the outside and within the homeland stopped the work for a period of 14 years. With the work on the temple halted, the people began to pursue their own

selfish interests and once again began to experience the discipline of God upon their lives ([Hag. 1:7-11](#)).

God used Haggai and Zechariah to get the leaders and the people to once again focus on the work of God. Through the leading of God, the ministry of the prophets, the decree and the funding of Darius I, and the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest, the rebuilding of the temple was resumed and completed in 516 BC., exactly 70 years after its destruction.²

Now we are going to watch a short video to re-enforce what we are learning today.

Video: The Book of Haggai

Themes:

Priorities

The people had neglected the rebuilding of God's temple while focusing their efforts on constructing beautiful homes for themselves.

Question: We have an immediate need to build 2 church buildings in Kenya to replace the building we have to leave by January 1, 2007. Are we going to take care of our own homes and needs instead of building the LOHM Kenya churches?

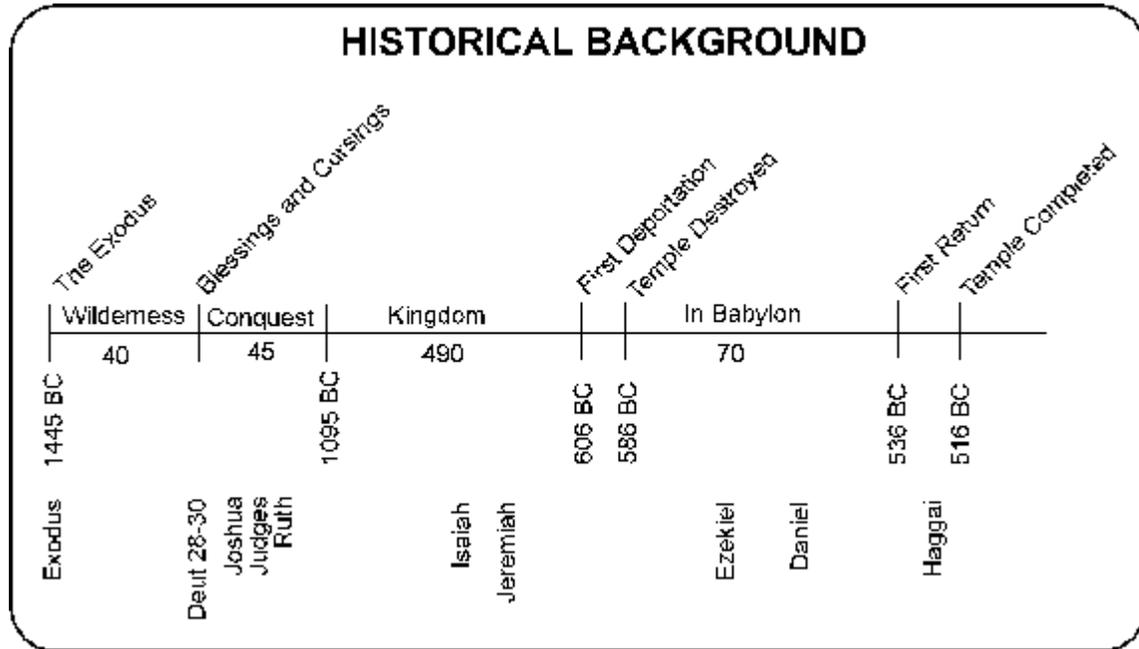
We need the power of everybody to make this happen. This includes donations from our Kenyan congregation.

Obedience

There are consequences for disobeying God. When God's people follow him he graciously provides the enthusiasm, strength and resources to do His will. God promised them that community that in return for their obedience he would bless them with His presence, peace and prosperity.

For LOHM Kenya this means that if we invest in this kingdom cause the Lord will bless you in some way either in your life and or in Eternity.

Historical Background



Haggai focused on the rebuilding of the temple.

Haggai concentrated his message at their religious life.

Friends what will be your focus?

Short prophetic book urging those who returned from exile to rebuild the Temple.

Haggai prophesied in Jerusalem about 520-515 BC, not long after some Jews had returned from exile in Babylon. He was a contemporary of [Zechariah](#).



The temple was in ruins-Haggai urged rebuilding

Haggai chides the people for allowing the [Temple](#) to remain in ruins while they themselves live in paneled houses. He warns that prosperity will not return until the Temple has been rebuilt (Hag 1). Urging the governor and high priest to pursue the work, Haggai declares that God will shake the heavens and earth, bringing the wealth of the nations to [Jerusalem](#). The new Temple will be more splendid than the old one.

[Hag 1:1-8](#) - Call to rebuild...

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Open your bibles to Haggai so we can read it today. It is 3 bible books from the book of Matthew.

Haggai 1-2 (New International Version)

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Haggai 1

A Call to Build the House of the LORD

1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua ^[a] son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the LORD's house to be built.' "

3 Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. 6 You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

7 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD. 9 "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. 10 Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. 11 I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands."

12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.

13 Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: "I am with you," declares the LORD. 14 So 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 the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of King Darius.

Haggai 2

The Promised Glory of the New House

1 On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 2 "Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, 3 'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? 4 But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD. 'Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty. 5 'This is

what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

6 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. 7 I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. 8 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. 9 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty."

Blessings for a Defiled People

10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Haggai: 11 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Ask the priests what the law says: 12 If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?' "

The priests answered, "No."

13 Then Haggai said, "If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?"

"Yes," the priests replied, "it becomes defiled."

14 Then Haggai said, " 'So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,' declares the LORD. 'Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.

15 " 'Now give careful thought to this from this day on ^[b]—consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the LORD's temple. 16 When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. 17 I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not turn to me,' declares the LORD. 18 'From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid. Give careful thought: 19 Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit.

" 'From this day on I will bless you.' "

Zerubbabel the LORD's Signet Ring

20 The word of the LORD came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month: 21 "Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I will shake the heavens and the earth. 22 I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother.

23 " 'On that day,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the LORD Almighty."

Transition: So now that we understand how Haggai fits into the history of Israel, what is the Purpose of Haggai? It was to get the people to rebuild the temple - to get the people to resume construction on the temple. How does he do that? He preaches four sermons to the people which we could outline as follows:

HAGGAI

First Sermon	Second Sermon	Third Sermon	Fourth Sermon
1:1-15	2:1-9	2:10-19	2:20-23
Conviction	Courage	Cleanliness	Consumation
Rebuke Reminder Response	God's Presence God's Peace	Defilement Dependency	Sovereign King Signet king

In Haggai's first sermon he rebukes them for having their priorities all wrong. Then we see the response of the people.

He also preached on Courage, Cleanliness and Consumation.

Summary

(1) We saw that Haggai rebuked them for having misplaced priorities and he pointed out the results which were dissatisfaction with the things of this world and discipline from God.

(2) Their response was to obey God's message and resume the work on the temple. Their obedience (repentance/confession) cleared their conscience (we might say) so that they could worship God and brought the Spirit's enablement on them so they could do the work of God.

(3) Their courage and motivation was to come from the promise of God's presence and His peace. This is the peace of mind that comes from knowing that God is in control.

(4) Haggai also dealt with the issues of living clean and godly lives so they would not defile their work and sacrifices. He also urged them to depend on God for life.

(5) And finally, Haggai gave them hope for the future by revealing that God was going to destroy their enemies and establish His kingdom with them, His chosen people.

Conclusion

In concluding please listen to the principles from Haggai that was so important to them and to all of us today.

Principles from Haggai

1. The work of the Lord should never be procrastinated (1:3)
2. Misplaced priorities hinder the work of God (1:4,9)
3. The goal of God's work is His glory and pleasure. (1:8)
4. God sometimes uses natural disasters for spiritual discipline (1:6,10,11)
5. Obedience and reverence are prerequisites for spiritual blessing (1:12-14)
6. It is never too late to start obeying God (1:12-15)
7. Courage comes from knowing that God is present (2:1-4)
8. The remedy for a discouraged heart is to see the divine perspective (2:6-7)
9. Everything belongs to and is under the control of the Lord (2:7-8)
10. Holiness is not transferable (2:11-12)
11. Sin contaminates everything one does (2:13-14)
12. Disobedience brings discipline, while obedience guarantees blessing (2:15-19)
13. God is sovereign over the nations and kingdoms of this world. (2:20-22)
14. The covenants of the Lord are guaranteed to be fulfilled (2:23)

This concludes our study of the book of Haggai. May you remember the teaching and apply it to your life. Take time to read it again in your personal study time and ask the Lord how does this book apply to your circumstances and obey His promptings

Let's stand for closing prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Announcements and Offering:

Communion:

Postlude: