

H A G G A I

“festival”

—prophet to Judah, end of sixth century

1. Date of Haggai

520 BC, second year of Darius I Hystapes (521-486 BC)

	<u>year</u>	<u>month</u>	<u>day</u>
1:1	2	6	1
1:15	2	6	24
2:1	-	7	21
2:10	2	9	24
2:18	-	9	24
2:20	-	-	24

Thus all Haggai’s messages were delivered within a three-month period in 520 BC

2. Historical background

Persian kings:

Cyrus	550-530 BC
Cambyses	530-521
Pseudo Smerdis	521
Darius	521-486
Xerxes	486-464
Artaxerxes	464-423

539 BC, Cyrus captures Babylon

ca. 538 BC, Cyrus decrees exiles may return (Ezra 1:1-4)

Joshua is high priest; Zerubbabel (Sheshbazzar? cf. I Chron. 3:18) leads Jews back; (Ezra 1:8; 2:2)

Some assume that Zerubbabel and Sheshbazzar are identical since they both build the temple (Ezra 5:14) and were each governors (Ezra 5:16,2). Likely they were two different characters since they each have dissimilar Babylonian names; but they probably were of the same family (I Chron. 3:18), Zerubbabel son of Pedaiah likely being Sheshbazzar’s nephew.

42,360 Jews + 7,337 servants return = ca. 50,000 people (Ezra 2:64-65)

ca. 537 BC, Jews arrive in Jerusalem

build altar (Ezra 3:2)

but do not yet start building the temple (Ezra 3:6)

536 BC, temple foundation is laid (Ezra 3:8, 10; cf. Hag. 2:18)

opposition continues until time of Darius and Haggai (Ezra 4:5), and further, even into the reign of Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:6-23)

temple building is suspended for 16 years (Ezra 4:24; 5:16)

521 BC, Darius I Hystapes becomes king (Ezra 6:1)

520 BC, prophets Haggai and Zechariah appear in Judah

Ezra 4:24 - 5:2; Hag. 1:1; Zech. 1:1

temple building is resumed (Ezra 5:2; Hag. 1:14-15)

516 BC, temple is completed

6th year of Darius (Ezra 6:14-15)

3. The prophet Haggai

Perspective: probably an older prophet, near 90 years old (cf. Hag. 2:3)

3 '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?

Ministry: encouraged the people throughout the temple rebuilding (Ez. 6:14)

simple prose style

LXX attributes some Psalms to him and to Zechariah (Pss. 137, 145-148; cf. Freeman, p. 328)

4. Outline of Haggai

The book of Haggai is a collection of four messages given over three months:

Message 1: Exhortation to rebuild the temple, ch. 1

vv. 4-6, false economy; God demands first fruits (6,9)

vv. 10-11, drought

vv. 12-15, obedience: Zerubbabel, Joshua, the people

Message 2: Glory of the new temple, 2:1-9

v. 3, comparison with Solomon's temple

v. 5, Mosaic covenant blessings to come

vv. 6-9, judgment, and future glory

Message 3: Infectious nature of their sin, 2:10-19

vv. 11-13, "bad apple" illustration

Beware of "infiltration doctrine" of New Evangelicals; cf. I Cor. 15:33

Biblical doctrine of separation is based on the ideal of God's holiness

v. 14, unclean hearts

v. 19, blessings upon repentance

Message 4: Blessing on Zerubbabel, 2:20-23

Zerubbabel—both genealogies of Jesus cross in him (Mt. 1:12-13; Lk. 3:27); one is the line of David-Solomon, the other of David-Nathan; possible explanation in Keil, pp. 175-76:

Nathan

Solomon



