

**Haggai – consider your ways.** Minor Prophets January 21, 2024

**Main point:** God calls us to consider our ways; that is, to give careful thought to whether we put a priority on the worship/service of God, and investing/working for His future glory?

**Summary of the Book of Haggai:**

Haggai, our tenth minor prophet presentation in our ‘God-theater,’ is a story about Haggai’s preaching AFTER the return from Babylonian captivity. As in all 12 minor prophets, ‘judgment unto restoration’ theme is found here in Haggai. The judgment of 70 years of captivity was now over, and task now is restoration - to re-build the destroyed temple. Upon their arrival home, the people had started to restore the temple, but then stopped and made no progress for 15 years. So, God sent Haggai to get the people to consider their ways (1:5,7 and 2:15,18), to examine their own priorities. Were they being faithful to God’s covenant, after God was faithful to bring them home from exile? The same holy God who insisted on destroying the temple for sin, now insists on allegiance to Him by restoring His temple, His worship, His service.

**Keys to understanding the Book of Haggai:**

The time in which Haggai lived.

The prophet Haggai known by his first name only.

The audience of Haggai. Ezra 2:68-69

A short book!

The name Haggai = festival.

Exiles: to go home or not to go home to Jerusalem? Ezra 1:2, Jer. 29:5-7, Ezra 2:64-65

Returning exiles: not a glorious homecoming scene!

Arriving home problem #1: House damage and many fallow fields.

Arriving home problem #2: Land squabbles Jer. 52:15-16, Neh. 5:1-13

Arriving home problem #3: Opposition to re-building city/temple!

a) External opposition, which stalled the work. Ezra 4:1-5, 5:1-5, 3:2-11

b) Internal opposition/criticism from their own Jewish people.

Ezra 3:12-13 Hag. 2:3 Zech. 4:8-16 Ezra 6:14-15

*The test of priority: to re-build the temple first or later?*

The many time stamps in the writing of Haggai. (1:1, 2:1,10,20) Hag. 2:6-7, 2:20-23

The structure of The Book of Haggai – not just sermons, but more of a narrator’s report.

**Outline of Haggai:** Four oracles.

1. The first oracle – is it time to re-build the temple? Yes. (1:1-11).

An obedient response from the people to labor on the temple! (1:12-15).

2. The second oracle – is there less or more glory than previous/future temple? (2:1-9).

3. The third oracle – do sinners become holy by re-building the temple? (2:10-19).

4. The fourth oracle – who will God raise up as the Davidic King? (2:20-23).

**New Testament images and motifs from Haggai:**

Restoration = wealth? No, not gold glory, but a better restoration glory.

The wealth of nations to Jerusalem = gifts of Gentile wisemen. Mt. 2:1-12

The glory of Jesus Himself coming to that second temple! Jn. 1:14, Heb. 1:3

New temple made of living stones, Jew/Gentile. 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 1 Peter 2:4-10

New kingdom led by a Son of David, transcends other kingdoms. Eph. 1:22

All things made new! God dwells with us, rich city, no tears! Rev. 21:1-27

New/shake heavens/earth. Heb. 12:26-29, Ex. 19:18, Mt. 27:51.

Give careful thought to your walk with God. Mt. 6:33 Seek first Him/Kingdom.