

The Book of Haggai

Chapter 1

Introduction

- Haggai – “feast”
- Haggai is the first of the post-exilic prophets (with Zechariah and Malachi) and is mentioned in Ezra 5:1.
- We can precisely date this book to 520 B.C. with reference to the second year of the reign of Darius the Great over Persia.
- The primary message of the book concerns the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple.
 - Solomon’s Temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.
 - Work began on rebuilding the Temple in 535 B.C. but halted after Samaritan interference – Ezra 3-4
- Outline:
 - Call to rebuild the Temple – Chapter 1
 - Blessings of rebuilding the Temple – Chapter 2

Chapter 1

- vs. 1 – The first day of the month would be a Feast of the New Moon (Numbers 28:11-15, Nehemiah 10:31) and the sixth month *Elul* would roughly our September.
- vs. 1 – Zerubabel was the grandson of King Jeconiah and the political leader while Joshua the High Priest the spiritual leader.
- vs. 2 – the Temple had only set unfinished for 15 years...
- vs. 4 – The people’s priorities were backwards.
- vs. 6 – God was not blessing them because of their unfaithfulness.
- vs. 8 – Note that God guaranteed He would be pleased by their faithfulness.
- vs. 9-11 – God was forced to send drought to get their attention.
- vs. 12-13 – The people are stirred to action
- vs. 14-15 – 23 days later the work begins, probably to allow for the gathering of material. It would be completed and dedicated in 516 B.C. (Ezra 6:15-18)