

HAGGAI

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INTRODUCTION

A. THE MAN:

1. The name Haggai means “festival” or festive.” May be shortened form of Haggiah, “festival of Jehovah.”
2. What we know of him is limited to Ezra 5:1,2; 6:14-16; and to the short book that bears his name.
3. Did he live to see the temple completed and to worship in it with the faithful remnant? We could wish he did, but we are not told.
4. Written over a period of only about 4 months.

B. HOME AND OCCUPATION:

1. We know nothing except that he returned from Babylon with the remnant under Zerubbabel and that he was a prophet.
2. See book of Ezra.

C. DATE:

1. Second year of reign of Darius 1:1; which would be 520 B.C.
2. He is the first Post-exile prophet.

D. BACKGROUND:

1. Judah had been carried away to Babylon 586 B.C. some as early as 605.
 2. Returned under Zerubbabel in 536 B.C. Over 150 years before Isaiah had prophesied this under Cyrus, (44:24-45:7).
 3. In about 536 then the foundation of the temple had been laid.
 4. Now 16 years later **nothing** had been done to rebuild it.
 5. And the people had not prospered, in fact they had suffered much during this 16 year period.
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THE MESSAGE

A. A simple but earnest warning...”**BUILD THE TEMPLE**”

B. HOW BIG IS OBEDIENCE?

1. Obedience is so big that it is the one way man has to show that he loves God.
 - a. *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”* (Mark 12)
 - b. *“This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments”* (I Jn. 5:3).
 2. Obedience is so big that God teaches that the one way in which you can show that you believe in Him is by obedience. (Heb. 11:6).
 3. By obedience we show our wisdom.
 - a. Matthew 7, the wise builder.
 - b. The Bible teaches that obeying God is the most important thing to do!
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LESSONS

A. TO PLEASE GOD....

1. In Israel's condition the prophet sees faithfulness and material blessings directly connected.
2. "Discouragement however profound is not an adequate reason for neglecting duties, even when they seem to be encompassed with difficulty." "Be strong and work" is a glorious motto for human life.
3. When a good work is awaiting its accomplishment, the time to do it is NOW.
4. The basis of all successful preaching is "saith Jehovah." It got results then, and such preaching will get results today.

B. FROM THE BOOK OF HAGGAI WE LEARN:

1. There is a need for timely, penetrating questions.
 2. God's people are under certain specific fundamental obligations.
 3. Obligations do not disappear merely because opposition appears.
 4. People need to be reminded of their duties.
 5. Affluence can be dangerous.
 6. God's works is controversial.
 7. A remnant may be all that is left to do the work.
 8. God favors the faithful!
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Book Preserved Because

A. God's people are under certain specific fundamental obligations.

1. Consider your ways. (Who is responsible for where you are?)
2. Build the house! (1:8 read). Then it was the temple...today it is the church (I Tim. 3:15).

B. GOD MUST BE FIRST!!

1. "Be strong" (2:4). The work needed to be done. (See Eph. 6:10).
2. "Work" (2:5) The temple would not rebuild itself. (John 9:4). See.
3. "Fear ye not" (2:5). "If God is for you" Romans also Matt. 28:20).
4. "Ask now the priest concerning the law" (2:11) "Study to show..."

C. Obligations do not disappear merely because opposition appears!

1. Or our own what we "think" we should do.
 2. The church (that's us) has a responsibility, obligation that must be met regardless of the opposition of the world.
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