



Haggai – An Introduction (Part 1)

Singapore Youth for Christ
12 July 2022



Introduction

- Haggai – A short book – with much to say!
- Understanding of prophetic writing requires a consideration of:
 - *The role of the prophet*
 - *The redemptive and historical context in which the prophecies occurred*



Who was Haggai?

- Little is known about Haggai the individual – no heritage or antecedents
- Four things that are known -
 - What he was – “the prophet”
 - Where he was – Jerusalem
 - When he spoke – Second year of Darius the king
 - Who he spoke to – Returning exiles in Jerusalem



The place of Haggai in the Bible?

- “Non written” and “Written” prophets
- “Written” prophets –
 - Prophets of Israel – Jonah, Amos, and Hosea
 - Prophets of Judah – Joel (?), Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk
 - Exilic Prophets – Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Obadiah (?)
 - Post-exilic Prophets – *Haggai*, Zechariah, and Malachi

Prophet	Date	King	Kingdom
Early "non writing" prophets			
Samuel	1050-1000	Saul, David	United
Elijah	870-852	Ahab, Ahaziah	Israel
Elisha	852-795	Jehoram Jehoash	Israel
Micaiah	853	Ahab	Israel
Writing prophets of monarchy period			
Joel*	810-750 (?)	Joash - Uzziah	Judah
Amos	760	Jeroboam II	Israel
Jonah	760	Jeroboam II	Israel
Hosea	760-722	Jeroboam II - Hoshea	Israel
Isaiah	740-700	Uzziah - Hezekiah	Judah
Micah	740-687	Jotham - Hezekiah	Judah
Zephaniah	640-610	Josiah	Judah
Nahum	630-612	Josiah - the exile	Judah
Jeremiah	626-587	Josiah-Johoahaz Jehoiakim-Jehoachin Zedekiah	Judah
Habakkuk	600	Jehoiakim	Judah
Writing prophets from period of the Babylonian exile			
Daniel	604-535	-	Judah
Ezekiel	582-570	-	Judah
Obadiah	c.587	-	Judah
Post-exilic period			
Haggai	520	Zerubbabel (Governor)	Judah
Zechariah	520	Zerubbabel (Governor)	Judah
Malachi	c.450		Judah

* There is some uncertainty regarding the timing of Joel.



The role of the prophet

- The prophetic gift – What is a prophet
 - *One who speaks for another*
 - *Being appointed and authorised by God to speak on his behalf*
- The prophetic office – what the prophets did
 - *Three forms – depending on the period of*

Redemptive Period	Prophetic Office	Means of Revelation	Form of Revelation
Patriarchal	Theophanies	Immediate	Appearances
Mosaic	Theopneustic	Mediate	Men
Christian	Theologic	Permanent	Writing



Historical context of Haggai (1)

Key biblical references:

- 2 Kings 24-25
- 2 Chronicles 36
- Ezra (especially chapters 1 – 6)
- Nehemiah (especially chapters 1 – 6)



Historical context of Haggai (2)

General timeline of the history of the Kingdom of Israel:

Date	Event
1012 - 931	Period of the Monarchy <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1012-931 - United Kingdom- 931-587 - Divided Kingdom- 931-721 - Northern Kingdom- 931-587 - Southern Kingdom
734-612	Assyrian Period (Northern Kingdom) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 721 onwards - Assyrian Captivity (did not return)
605-539	Babylonian Period (Southern Kingdom) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 587-539 - Babylonian Captivity
539-332	Persian Period <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 539 onwards - Post-exilic period and return to Jerusalem

Historical context of Haggai (3)

Timeline of the history of the Babylonian exile

Date	Event
957	Completion of the First Temple (Solomon)
612	Babylonians and Medes conquer Assyria.
609	Death of King Josiah (Judah).
605	Nebuchadnezzar becomes king of Babylon. Babylon invades Judah; Jehoiakim appointed vassal king. First deportation to Babylon.
597	Babylon capture Jerusalem (following Jehoiakim's rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar). Zedekiah installed as vassal king. Second deportation to Babylon.
589	Zedekiah rebels against Nebuchadnezzar; siege of Jerusalem.
587	Jerusalem falls. Destruction of Solomon's Temple. Jerusalem's walls and gates burned. Judah becomes a Babylonian province; end of the independent kingdom of Judah and the Judah monarchy. Third deportation to Babylon. Babylonian exile begins.
539	Persia - under King Cyrus II (559-530) - conquers Babylon. Start of the Persian period (539-332).
538	Decree of Cyrus - allowing Jews to return to Judah.
537	First group to return to Judah/Jerusalem.
536	Work begins on the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem; but work stalls.
525	Second group of exiles returned to Judah; under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua.
520	Prophecy of Haggai.
520	Work on the construction of the Temple resumes.
516	Construction of the Second Temple completed.
458	Third group of exiles return to Judah under Ezra.
445	Fourth group of exiles return to Judah under Nehemiah. Work of restoring the walls of Jerusalem completed.

Historical context of Haggai (4)





Exile and Post-exilic periods

- The Exile – 605-538BC
 - *Reasons for the captivity and exile*
 - *Key leaders*
- The Post-exilic period – 538-455BC
 - *The Restoration – the First Return – 538BC onwards*
 - Rebuilding of the Temple
 - *The Reformation – the Return of Ezra – 458BC onwards*
 - Completion of the Wall of Jerusalem



The timeline of Haggai

In the Second Year of Darius II -

- 1:1 Day 1, Sixth Month
- 1:15 Day 24, Sixth Month
- 2:1 Day 21, Seventh Month
- 2:10 Day 24, Ninth Month
- 2:20 Day 24, Ninth Month



An outline of Haggai

- 1:1-11 - First Prophecy - Call to rebuild the temple
- 1:12-15 - Response to the Call
- 2:1-9 - Second prophecy - Encouragement to labour - the glory that is to come
- 2:10-19 - Third Prophecy - Curse to be replaced with blessing
- 2:20-21 - Fourth Prophecy - Restoration of the kingship over the people of God



Key themes in Haggai

- Covenant fidelity
- Obedience and repentance
- Covenant curses and blessings
- Presence of the Lord among his people
- Covenant hope – the final restoration



Key themes in Haggai

- Covenant fidelity
- Obedience and repentance
- Covenant curses and blessings
- Presence of the Lord among his people
- Covenant hope – the final restoration

*Haggai – An
Introduction
(Part 2) ... Next
week!*
