


Haggai – Chapter 1 (Part 2)

Singapore Youth for Christ
19 July 2022



Introduction

- Focus - Re-building the Temple
 - The work had stalled and ceased
 - Haggai is a call to resume and complete the work
- 

Historical background (reprise)

Date	Event
957	Completion of the First Temple (Solomon)
605	Nebuchadnezzar becomes king of Babylon. Babylon invades Judah - First deportation to Babylon.
597	Babylon capture Jerusalem (following Jehoiakim's rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar).
587	Jerusalem falls - Destruction of Solomon's Temple - Full exile begins
539	Persia - under King Cyrus II (559-530) - conquers Babylon.
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; work stalls.
525	Second group of exiles returned to Judah; under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua.
520	Prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah.
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; walls of Jerusalem completed.
?	Prophecy of Malachi.



Covenantal context of Haggai

- Central theme behind Haggai – covenant
- Kingdom of God defined as:
 - *God's people*
 - *God's place*
 - *Under God's rule*
 - *Receiving God's blessings*

[Graeme Goldsworthy/Vaughan Roberts]





Haggai 1 – Outline (1)

- Who Haggai speaks to – Covenantal people (v.1)
 - *Zerubbabel*
 - *Joshua*
- The People's Excuse – Covenant infidelity (v.2)



Haggai 1 – Outline (2)

The Lord's indictment against the people (vv.3-11)

- The Lord's "charge" against them – Covenant disobedience
 - *The hypocrisy and inconsistency of their excuse (vv.3-4)*
 - *What they should have been doing (vv.7-8)*
- The consequence of their disobedience – two-fold call to "Consider your ways" – Covenant curse
 - *The futility of their efforts (vv.5-6)*
 - *This was the Lord's judgement (vv.7-11)*



Haggai 1 – Outline (3)

The people's response -Covenant restoration and blessing (vv.12-15)

- Heard the word of the Lord, repented, and obeyed (v.12)
- The Lord's declaration - "I am with you" -vv.13-15)



Covenantal significance of the Temple

- The centrality of the Temple to the covenant and therefore its importance
 - *Is that which identifies the Lord's people*
 - *Is the centre of the place where the Lord's people dwell*
 - *Is the "seat" of the Lord's rule*
 - *Is the source and means of blessing*
- Haggai 1:8 - "Take pleasure in it and be glorified"
- Central to the restoration of the Kingdom of Judah as the nation of the Lord's people
- Under the New Covenant - Christ and the Church



Concluding comments