

# The Prophet of the Temple

Haggai

**PROPOSITION:** The work of Haggai was to encourage the rebuilding of the temple of God in Jerusalem.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. In his first year, Cyrus, king of Persia, sent Jewish captives back to Judah with this proclamation: "Rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel" (Ezra 1:3).
2. In 538 B.C. the work began, but because of opposition, the work was stopped (Ezra 4:4).
3. In 520 B.C., Haggai, with the authority of Darius, returned to Jerusalem with one thing on his mind: Rebuild the temple.
4. Outline:
  - a. Chapter One
    - 1) A Message of Rebuke (1:1-11)
    - 2) A Message of Accomplishment (1:12-15)
  - b. Chapter Two
    - 1) A Message of Courage (2:1-9)
    - 2) A Message of Assurance (2:10-23)
5. The key verse states Haggai's theme: Haggai 2:9.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **I. The August Message (Haggai 1:1-15)**

- A. Haggai began with what the people say (1:2).
- B. Then he continued with what the Lord says (1:3-13).
- C. It was a time for penetrating, thought-provoking questions (1:5).
- D. As long as excuses were used, the people could not prosper. Note their condition (1:6-9).
- E. Haggai explained the reason for inflation (1:9, 10).
- F. One of the many lessons of Haggai is that faithful preaching of God's word is powerful. "The people obeyed" (1:12, 14).

### **II. The October Message (Haggai 2:1-9)**

- A. Be strong and work (2:4).
- B. The people needed strengthening, because...
  1. The obligation to build required it.
  2. The significance of the work demanded it.
  3. The number (a remnant) necessitated it.
- C. Our work in the kingdom is not that different (cf. Eph. 6:10).
- D. The work had to go on even in the face of opposition, discouragement, and selfishness.
  1. God's work is controversial, but obligations do not disappear because of opposition.
  2. Looking back and sighing for departed glories should not keep us from working (2:3).
- E. Another great lesson from Haggai is that God favors the faithful (2:4, 6, 7).
- F. Whatever work we are doing for Him, God can make it glorious (2:3, 9).

### **III. The December Message (Haggai 2:10-23)**

- A. Hope and assurance
- B. Not only must the temple be restored, but holiness must also be restored.
- C. It is time for more soul-searching, penetrating questions.
  1. How does a thing become clean or unclean? (2:12, 13). Discouragement spreads.
  2. "How did you fare?" (2:16). Before the temple: famine and drought
  3. "Is the seed yet in the barn?" (2:19). Blessings were forfeited because they refused to put God and His temple first.
- D. An honor was bestowed upon Zerubbabel (2:20-23). Five hundred twenty years later, Matthew confirmed that promise (cf. Matt. 1:1, 12).

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. The people had failed and suffered for it, but they revived, did the work of God, and God blessed them.
2. Failure is not forever! God favors the faithful. Will you be one of them?

--Andy Kizer; 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. church of Christ; October 19, 2008