

# A LOOK AT THE BOOK HAGGAI

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## AUTHOR AND DATE

The prophet Haggai is unknown except for his role arousing Zerubbabel and Joshua to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.  
He and Zechariah saw the importance of the temple in the land.  
They motivated the people to rebuild the temple.  
Haggai ministered during the second year of Darius' reign, 520 B.C.

## BACKGROUND

After the 70 year period of Jewish captivity ended, 42,360 Jews returned to the land under the edict of Cyrus issued in 539 B.C.  
Their first task was to establish the worship of Yahweh in Jerusalem.  
They began by building an altar on the old site.  
They relaid the foundation (Ezra 3:10), but were stopped at that point by the Samaritan opposition.  
For sixteen years the temple was ignored.  
They rebuilt their homes and businesses, but avoided reconstruction of the walls and temple.

## PURPOSE AND THEME

The people are living comfortably, but nothing is being done for the Lord's house.  
The prophets came to exhort the people to build the temple.  
Once they began, the temple was completed in four years (Ezra 6:15).

Though the events in Israel were of greatest importance, the events in Persia were incorporated into the thoughts and messages of the prophets.  
Reference is made in Haggai to the shaking of the nations.  
He saw this as preliminary to the advent of Messiah.

In the period preceding Haggai's ministry, Cambyses had died and been replaced Pseudo-Smerdis.  
Darius created a rebellion and put him down.  
Others, desiring to do the same, raised nineteen rebellions against Darius.  
Haggai viewed this as the shaking of nations which evidenced the possible imminent coming of Messiah.  
He used this shaking of the nations to motivate the people, for he desired Messiah's temple to be ready for Him when He came.

## APPLICATION

*What lessons does this book teach us about life as God's people today?*

*What does God want from us?*

## HAGGAI

### Rebuild the Temple!

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First Message 1:1-11	Second Message 1:12-15	Third Message 2:1-9	Fourth Message 2:10-19	Fifth Message 2:20-23
September 1 (1st of Elul - Aug/Sep)	September 24 (24th of Elul)	October 21 (21st of Tishri - Sep/Oct)	December 24 (24th of Kislev - Dec/Jan)	December 24 (24th of Kislev)
REBUKE	COMMENDATION	ENCOURAGEMENT	CLEANSING AND BLESSING	SECURITY
Introduction 1:1  Confusion of priorities 1:2-4  "Wrong time" 2  Fancy houses 3-4  Condition of dissatisfaction 1:5-6  Commission to rebuild 1:7-8  Cause of dissatisfaction 1:9-11	Positive response to first message 1:12      God's support promised 1:13      People moved to action 1:14-15	Previous glory compared 2:1-3      Promise of divine presence 2:4-5      Promise of divine occupancy 2:6-9	Need for cleansing 2:10-14      Promise of blessing 2:15-19	Promise of overthrow of other nations 2:20-22      Promise of security for Zerubbabel 2:23