

“Consider Your Ways”

Haggai

History

- Date of the writing of Haggai. 1:1 (520 BC)
 - Note four oracles are dated in this book that cover a period of four months. (1:1; 2:1; 2:10; 2:20)
- Sixteen years earlier (536 BC) 50,000 Jews had returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel. (cf. Isaiah 44:24-45:7; Jeremiah 25:11)

History

Upon their return:

1. Built an altar to offer burnt offerings. Ezra 3:6
2. Gathered materials to rebuild the temple, began in the second year. Ezra 4:1-24
3. Met with opposition from the Samaritans. Ezra 4:2-5
4. Decree obtained from Artaxerxes causing the work to cease for about 15 years. Ezra 4:21

History

- Haggai and Zechariah were sent to stir up the people and encourage them to complete the work. Ezra 5:1-2
- Apathy. *Haggai 1:2-6 "It is not the time (for us) to come, the time for Jehovah's house to be built."*
 - NOTE: Neither danger nor difficulty had prevented them from building their own luxurious houses

Message 1 – The Time For Rebuilding The Temple Is Overdue. 1:1-15

Consider your ways! (cf. Haggai 1:7)

- Work, but never satisfied.
- Priorities were wrong. cf. Matthew 6:33

Message 1 – The Time For Rebuilding The Temple Is Overdue. 1:1-15

Response to this message.

Haggai 1:12-15

- Remnant of the people obeyed.
- Spirit stirred.
- Work started 23 days after the word was first delivered by Haggai (cf. 1:1 with 1:15)

Message 2 – Consolation To Those Who Remembered The Former Glory. 2:1-9

The Lord will be with the builders of the temple. 2:1-5

- Anticipated disappointment. cf. Ezra 3:12
- Splendor of Solomon's temple. 1 Kings 6:22,28-30; 7:48-50
- "Be Strong" – Strength not in numbers (Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Judges 7)
- "Work" – cf. Nehemiah 4:6; Matthew 9:37-39
- "I am with you." cf. Matthew 28:20

Message 2 – Consolation To Those Who Remembered The Former Glory. 2:1-9

The Temple's Future Glory. 2:6-9

- Gifts received from:
 - Cyrus (Ezra 1:7-11; 3:7)
 - Darius (Ezra 6:9-13)
 - Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:12-26)
 - Other Gentiles (Isaiah 60:5,11) Glorified Zion.
- May be a type of the temple built by Christ. (cf. Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Hebrews 12:26-29)

Message 3 – Reply To Those Who Thought God's Blessings Were Too Slow. 2:10-19

Israel needed to be cleansed. 2:10-14

- Can that which is unclean be made holy by coming in contact with that which is holy? NO (cf. Leviticus 10:8-10)
- Can that which is clean be made unclean by coming in contact with that which is unclean? YES (cf. Numbers 19:11,22)
- Returning to the land, rebuilding the temple did not make them clean ... needed a renewed attitude toward the Lord. verse 14

Message 3 – Reply To Those Who Thought God's Blessings Were Too Slow. 2:10-19

Apathy had corrupted them.

- Zeal for the Lord's work would renew God's blessings. 2:15-19
 - Look this day and backward 14-16 years to the present.
 - God had not blessed them. cf. Amos 4:6-12
 - Look from this day forward with a change of spirit to God's blessings.

History

- Work finished: *"And the elders of the Jews builded and prospered, through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king." Ezra 6:14-15*

Message 4 – The Lord Renews The Promise Of Salvation. 2:20-23

God rules in the kingdoms of men. 2:21-22

- Prophets declared God's promise to overthrow the "throne of kingdoms" and the "strength of the kingdoms of nations"

Message 4 – The Lord Renews The Promise Of Salvation. 2:20-23

God rules in the kingdoms of men.
2:21-22

- **Messianic Hope Preserved In Zerubbabel. 2:23**
 - Make thee "*as a signet,*" (seal of authority).
 - Zerubbabel is in the direct lineage of Jesus.
(cf. Matthew 1:12; Luke 3:27)

Application

- **God blesses those who put Him first.**