



Haggai

Priorities

The Minor Prophets

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28. Hosea

29. Joel

30. Amos

31. Obadiah

32. Jonah

33. Micah

34. Nahum

35. Habakkuk

36. Zephaniah

37. Haggai

38. Zechariah

39. Malachi

Haggai Priorities

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- **Haggai** is the first of the *post-exilic prophets* – those to write after the Jewish exile in Babylon.
- The others are **Zechariah** and **Malachi**.

Haggai Bible Trivia

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- This is the only book of the Bible with **two chapters**.
- Several have either one or three.

Haggai Timeline

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- They rebuild the altar and resume the sacrifices.
- **535 B.C.** The builders lay the foundation of the Temple, but they stop due to serious opposition.

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- 515 B.C. The second Temple is completed.
- 400's B.C. **Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther**
- (The first six chapters of **Ezra** record events that take place before Ezra's own time.)

Haggai Purpose

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- **Haggai**, meaning “**festive**,” has three main purposes, which parallel the purposes outlined by Paul in **1 Corinthians**:
- **1 Corinthians 14:3** (NKJV)

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Haggai Purpose

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But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

- To edify (*build up*) the people, who had now returned to the Holy Land.
- To exhort (*stir up*) the people who had become lax in doing the Lord's work.
- To comfort (*cheer up*) the people after they renewed their commitment.

Haggai Key Word

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- Consider
- It appears five times in four verses. Highlight these.
- 1:5 Consider your ways
- 1:7 Consider your ways.
- 2:15 Now then, consider from this day onward.
- 2:18 (2x) Consider from this day onward ... consider.

Haggai Outline

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- **Haggai** consists of four dated messages.
- The dates are approximate:
- First Message **1:1-15** September 1, 520 B.C.
- Second Message **2:1-9** October 21, 520 B.C.
- Third Message **2:10-19** December 24, 520 B.C.
- Fourth Message **2:20-23** December 24, 520 B.C.

Around September 1, 520 B.C.

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- The sin of the people was that they were putting themselves ahead of the Lord.
- This is a common error in every age. It never works.

Around September 1, 520 B.C.



Dr. Charles Feinberg

They had shifted the most important thing out of the picture. First things must be placed first. It was not merely a physical building or structure that was the issue; all revolved around the question of worship of the Lord.

*– Charles L. Feinberg (1909 – 1995),
professor of Semitics, Talbot Seminary,
convert from Orthodox Judaism*

Around September 1, 520 B.C.

- God wants to give us the peace and satisfaction that comes with him providing for our needs.
- That peace cannot come unless we put him first.

Around October 21, 520 B.C.

Around October 21, 520 B.C.

- **Ezra 3:12-13** (ESV)

¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy,¹³ so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

Around October 21, 520 B.C.

There are always going to be reasons to lament the present state of things.

For many people this turns into a sinful longing for *the good old days*.

Some of the older people present might have observed, “This temple isn’t nearly as good as the old one.”

Around October 21, 520 B.C.

- Ecclesiastes 7:10 (ESV)

Say not, “Why were the former days better than these?”
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

Around October 21, 520 B.C.

- **Philippians 3:13-14** (ESV)

¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Around December 21, 520 B.C.

Around December 21, 520 B.C.

- This message emphasizes the need for the cleansing of the heart as well as the hands.
- A change in behavior is good, but a change in heart makes the change in behavior complete.

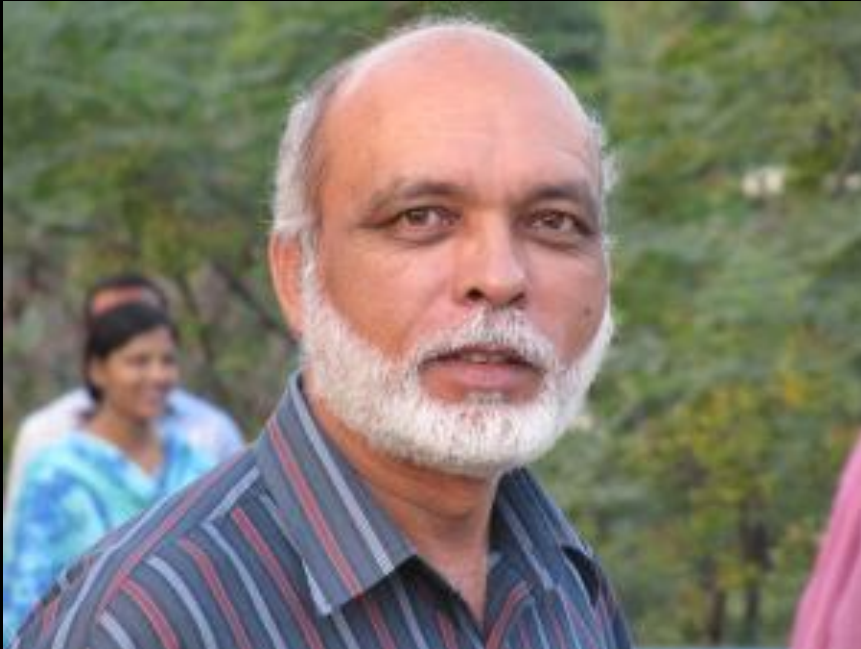
Around December 21, 520 B.C.

Around December 21, 520 B.C.

- **2:20** Yes, this message comes on the same day as the last.
- **2:21-23** This is a personal message to encourage Zerubbabel.
- God's promises the future destruction of the world's evil kingdoms, which must have seemed a gigantic threat.
- There is also a declaration of God's election. Zerubbabel is found in both recorded genealogies of Jesus Christ.

Haggai Priorities

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God can do things alone, but he is delighted when his people take part in his work. The prophet reminds the beleaguered Israelites that they must do the work of rebuilding the temple and not allow fear of the enemy to stop this undertaking, because God is with them.

*– Ashkenaz Asif Khan,
Pakistani Bible Teacher*

Haggai Priorities

- Let's go back to our key word **consider**.
- It's an order to stop and think about:
 1. What we are doing. (1:5,7)
 2. What God is doing. (2:15,18)

Haggai Priorities

- **Haggai** points out several things for us to consider that may hinder the Lord's work in us:
 1. Serving self instead of God.
 2. Looking backward instead of forward.
 3. Changing behavior without changing the heart.

Haggai Priorities

- **Haggai** also wants to encourage and motivate us by turning our attention toward God. Consider the following:
 - “I am with you.” (1:13, 2:4)
 - “Be strong (3x) (2:4)
 - “Work.” (2:4)
 - “Fear not.” (2:5)
 - “I will give peace.” (2:9)
 - “I will bless you.” (2:19)
 - “I have chosen you.” (2:23)