

Haggai

"Rebuild the Temple!"

Background Information

Haggai's name means "festal one," and some suggest this may mean he was born on, or near, a feast day.

The second-shortest book in the Old Testament, Haggai is only quoted in the New Testament one time (Hebrews 12:26).

He is mentioned in the historical record of Ezra on two occasions (5:1; 6:14) along with Zechariah.

It is possible that he lived to be an older man, as 2:3 may indicate that he had seen Solomon's temple before it was destroyed.

Time Covered and Outline

Little time passes during the book, but Haggai delivers his message to make sure no more time passes before the temple is rebuilt by the people, who have let it sit partially completed for 16 years. Four years later, the job is done.

His statements to the people provide the outline. There are five major points he makes in speeches that span about 3-4 months.

- I. Their Disobedience (1:1-11)
- II. The Response of the Faithful (1:12-15)
- III. God's Glory to Return (2:1-9)
- IV. Questions to be Answered (2:10-19)
- V. The Reign of the Lord (2:20-23)

Major Themes

God's presence in the temple
Obedience
Work and motivation

God's Character in Haggai

Glorious (2:1-9)

Jesus in Haggai

Zerubbabel's importance in this book underlines his place in the lineage of David to Jesus. His name is found in Mary's family tree (Luke 3:27) as well as Joseph's (Matthew 1:12).

Any reference to the temple reminds us of God's presence, of which Jesus would be the ultimate fulfillment.

Key Words in Haggai

Signet ring (Hebrew *chotham*); "to affix a seal." 2:23

Elsewhere in the World...

Buddah begins his search for philosophy and preaches his first sermon in 521 BC in a city now considered holy by Buddhists, Barnares.

Elsewhere in Scripture...

Ezra's specific mention of Haggai make placing it in the historical narrative quite easy. His work falls in Ezra chapters 5 and 6, along with that of Zechariah.