

Summary of Haggai

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The author of the book of Haggai is Haggai, a Hebrew prophet during the building of the second temple in Jerusalem and one of the twelve Minor Prophets in the Holy Bible. The purpose of the book of Haggai is to encourage the Jews that had returned from the Babylonian exile to finish the work of rebuilding the Temple of the Yahweh which the Lord had instructed them to rebuild. Haggai was a prophet called by God to encourage the people to finish the construction of the temple in Jerusalem. The building had stopped because of opposition from the surrounding nations. The Jews had become afraid of their neighbors and the temple of God was left lying in ruins. The book of Haggai was written in approximately 520 B.C. The building of the temple in Jerusalem was finished in 515 B.C.

In chapter one, God calls on Haggai to deliver His message to the Jewish people. The Jews were living in their own comfortable house while the temple, the house of God, was not yet finished being rebuilt. The people had grown complacent regarding their task and thought that the time had not yet fully come for the completion of the rebuilding of God's temple. The Lord answers this false resolution through the preaching of the prophet Haggai by asking the people if it is indeed time to live in their own houses while the house of God was not yet finished. Through Haggai, God reminds the people of Judah that they are vainly living unprosperous, wasteful lives although they are trying to get on with their own business. The people sought to prosper but God prevented their prosperity because they neglected His house. God then instructs them to bring wood from the mountains and to continue the work which pleases the Lord. If they fail to obey, then God will send drought and famine to the land, but the people obeyed God. The

Lord stirred up the spirits of Zerubbabel and Jehozadak, the high priest, along with all the people, and the people obeyed God voice and feared His presence. The Lord made Haggai's ministry successful in that, after the preaching of Haggai, the people of Judah all came together and began working to rebuild the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem.

In chapter two, Haggai motivates the Jews to continue building the temple, and He assures the people that God will bless them because of the promises that God had made to their forefathers whom He brought out of the land of Egypt. Through His prophet Haggai, God reminds the people of Jerusalem that He is with them because His Spirit is in their midst and tells them not to be afraid. The Lord says to His people that He will once more shake the heavens and the earth, for all the world belongs to Him. Finally, the Lord warns the people through Haggai to serve Him wholeheartedly and faithfully. If they do this, then God will bless them. Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, is addressed at the end of the book, and God informs him that He will shake the heavens and earth, He will overthrow the kings and kingdoms of the earth, and He will exalt His servant Zerubbabel.