

# The Minor Prophets - Haggai

- Introduction
  - Haggai (חַגַּי chag-gay) means “festive”.
  - There is only one man in the O.T. with this name.
    - No information about Haggai is provided here in the text.
    - Outside of this book, Haggai is mentioned two times in Ezra [Ezra 5:1; 6:14].
  - Dating is precise (520 B.C.) [Hab 1:1, 15; 2:10].
- Observations from the Text
  - Haggai’s first message is a “Consider you ways” rebuke [1:2-11].
    - The message was given to Zerubbabel and Joshua [1:1], but directed at all of Israel.
    - The people insisted that the time wasn’t right to rebuild the temple, but God knew better [1:2, 4].
    - The people were commanded to consider their ways [1:5, 7 cf. Deut 32:46].
    - The leadership and remnant responded [1:12] so the Lord stirred them up to do His work [1:13-15].
  - Haggai’s second message is to compare the present with the past [2:1-9].
    - This was done 16 years earlier when the second temple foundation stone was laid [Ezra 3:12].
    - Glories of the past can be discouraging if God’s promises are ignored [2:4-5].
    - Their future will feature an unshakable kingdom [2:6-9 cf. Heb 12:26-28].
  - Haggai’s third message reveals why Israel needed a change of heart [2:10-19].
    - The priesthood was asked to answer some revealing questions [2:11-14].
    - A change of thinking was needed for things to be different from the day the foundation stone was laid [2:15-19].
  - Haggai’s fourth message was a promise to the non-king governor Zerubbabel [2:20-23].
    - The signet ring had been removed during the days of Zerubbabel’s grandfather [Jer 22:24-25].
    - The signet ring will be restored yet future [2:21-23].
    - The personal promise is prophetic...
      - Zerubbabel, a type of Christ, ministered faithfully making no claim to the throne he was entitled to.
      - This promise to Zerubbabel is a promise to the Son of Zerubbabel – Jesus Christ.

- Applications for Today
  - Believers should not be unstable and double-minded [Jas 1:8], but must seek God whole-heartedly [Deut 4:29] and serve God whole-heartedly [Deut 6:5; Col 3:23].
  - Forgetting what lies behind [Phil 3:13] does not exclude learning from the past [Phil 3:16 cf. Deut 4:32; Ps 44:1; 1 Cor 10:6,11; Heb 10:32; 13:7; Rev 2:5; 3:3].
  - Holiness does not rub off, impurity does [1 Cor 15:33; 2 Cor 6:14-18].
  - God fulfills His promises, even when they appear impossible [Hos 11:1 || Mic 5:2 || Isa 9:1].