

Haggai

Introduction

We know little about the person Haggai. The time of his prophecy is the second year of Darius (1:1) which is 520 B.C. This is Darius I of the Persian Empire (not Darius the Mede of the book of Daniel). The Babylonian ***captivity has come and gone*** and a remnant had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and walls of the city as described in Ezra 1.1-5.2 (picking up the narrative where 2 Chronicles left off with the proclamation of Cyrus (2 Ch 36.22; Ezra 1.1)).

The Ezra-Nehemiah Period

Zerubbabel	539				430
	Haggai	Esther	Ezra (from 458)		
	Zechariah	(to 465)	Nehemiah (from 445)		
	(from 520)			Malachi	

Ezra 5.1-2 tell us about the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah. The first returnees were led by Zerubbabel, governor of Judah. Haggai addresses his message to him and to the returnees that he represents (cf. 1:1 with 1:13 "this message .. to the people" with 1:2, these people say).

His goal was to stir up the people to build the temple

(1:3-4; cf. Ezra 6:14). Basis of encouragement: "I am with you" (Hag.1:13; 2:4-5). This is covenant language (cf. Gen. 17:7-8; 28:15; Rev. 21:3). The genre is ***narrative report oracle***. The book is "a report on Haggai's utterances and the effect they had on the hearers" (IOT 423).

1A. Outline

- God's summons to build the temple 1
- Encouragements to build the temple 2

2A. Contents (message)

Chapter one shows that after 536 and the building of altar for sacrifice down to 520, the temple has not been built. There has been opposition, delays, and a preoccupation of the people with their own homes.

So, the remnant is ***stirred up*** to build the temple (1:14) and encouraged (2:3-5, covenant language again). This new temple will have a greater glory and there will be peace (2:9).

But it will not come by an unclean people because holiness is not contagious (automatic) but ritual uncleanness is (2:11-14). Thus it is pervasive. So, repent!

The key is to have God's blessing (2:19), his stirring unto good works (cf. 1:12-13 which explains the cause of the remnant's obedience as God's stirring up or blessing). Then ***God will shake the heavens and the earth, make Zerubbabel his signet ring (2:21-23)*** and bless all nations (2:7).

3A. Theme

The book of Haggai is a call to temple rebuilding in Jerusalem in anticipation of the great future city of God under the rule of God's signet ring.

4A. Message for us

- 1) The glory of God will be manifest to his remnant people *when Christ tabernacles among us and we behold his glory* (cf. Hag. 2:9). Then the greater David, prince, and governor will be God's signet ring, the ***seal of his promise keeping*** throughout history (in strong contrast with the judgment of Jehoiachin, the signet ring pulled off and discarded, **Jer. 22:24-25**, IOT 425).
- 2) The remnant will constitute the new and final temple in the coming of the kingdom of God (Hag. 1:14 with I Cor. 3:16-17; I Pet. 2:4-10, especially v. 5).
- 3) This all ***anticipates the final shaking*** of heaven and earth when all opposition and evil is subdued (**Hag. 2:21-22**).