

Haggai

1. When did Haggai prophesy?

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).

2. What is the theme of the book?

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.

3. What is the message for us from the book?

- 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**).