

Haggai - "Obeying the Call of God"

From Whom: Written by Haggai in 520 B.C. Haggai was the first prophetic voice to be heard after the Babylonian captivity and his book is the second shortest of the Old Testament. His writings are the most accurately dated in the Old Testament (1:1; 2:1, 10, 20). Like Nehemiah (who came much later to Jerusalem), Haggai was a man of action. In just 23 days Haggai inspired the people back to work on the temple, after a delay of around 16 years.

To Whom: The returning Jewish remnant leaving Babylon after 70 years of captivity. For details read Ezra 2 and Nehemiah 7:6-73.

What/ Theme: The primary theme is answering the call of God. The original call is to rebuild God's temple, which had been lying in ruins since its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. Later, the call will be to the people to be faithful before concluding with encouragement for the discouraged leaders.

Where/ When: The time was 520 B.C., the place Jerusalem, and the current world ruler was Darius, King of Persia. The back story can be found in 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 and Ezra 1:1-2, 5:1. Cyrus, King of Persia, fourteen years earlier, allowed the temple of God to be rebuilt in Jerusalem. Here, God commissions Haggai to light a fire under the leaders of the Jewish remnant in order to finish the work.

Interesting Perspective: *The people said:* We can't afford to build the second temple (1:2). *The prophet said:* You can't afford not to (1:5-11). *The people said:* We're sad. The second temple is much smaller than the first temple (2:3). *The prophet said:* Be glad. The final temple will be larger than both combined (2:9).

Outline:

1. A challenge to the people, **(1:1-11)**
 - September 1, 520 B.C.
 - a. A charge of conflict of interest, (1:1-4)
 - b. A call to consider their ways, (1:5-7)
 - c. A command to construct the temple, (1:8-11)
2. The response to the challenge, **(1:12-15)**
 - September 24, 520 B.C.
 - a. Construction of the temple; the people obeyed, (1:12)
 - b. Confirmation from God, (1:13-15)
3. The discouragement of the people; the encouragement of the Lord, **(2:1-9)**
 - October 21, 520 B.C. (Remembering the splendor of Solomon's temple)
4. An appeal to the Law; the explanation of the principle, **(2:10-19)**

-- December 24, 520 B.C.

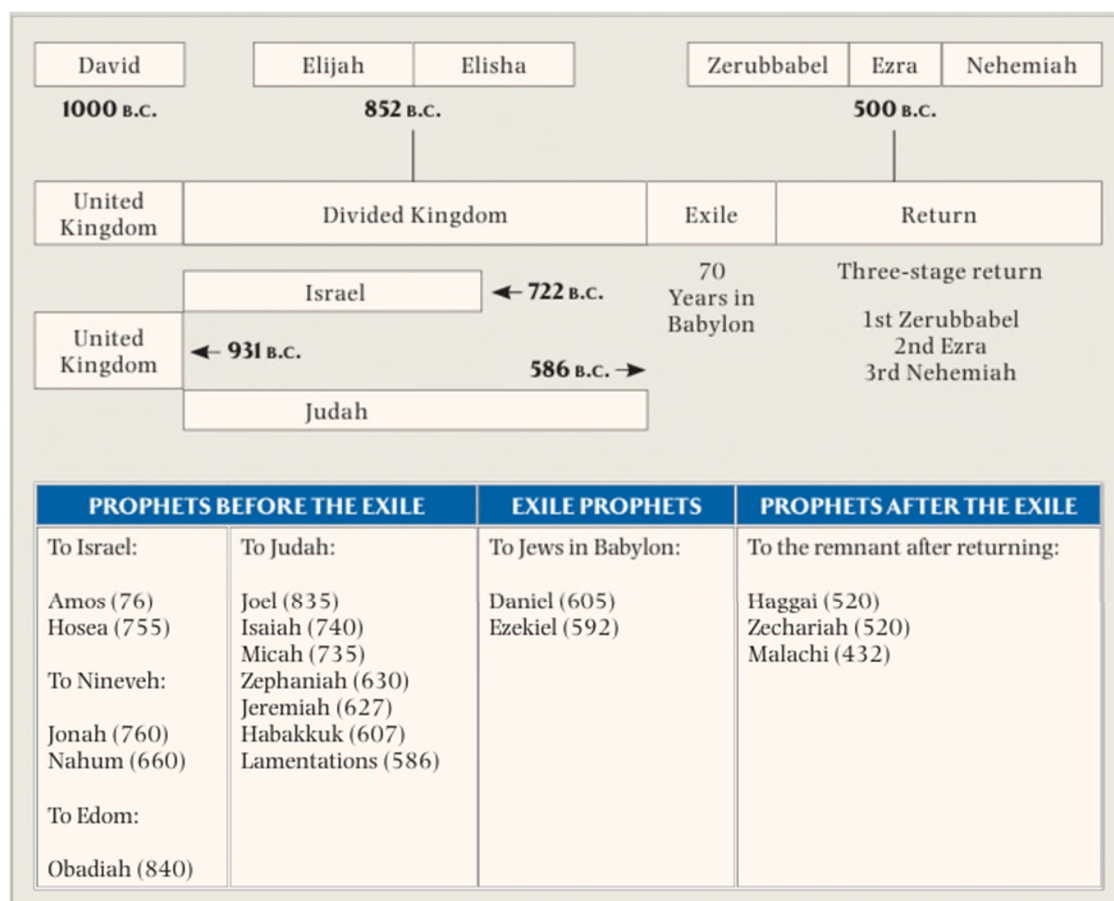
5. A revelation of God's program; an expectation for the future, (2:20-23)

-- December 24, 520 B.C.

HAGGAI AT A GLANCE				
Focus	Completion Of the Latter Temple	Glory Of the Latter Temple	Present Blessings Of Obedience	Future Blessings Through Promise
Reference	1:1	2:1	2:10	2:20
Division	"Consider Your Ways . . . My House That Is In Ruins."	"The Glory Of This Latter Temple Shall Be Greater."	"From This Day I Will Bless You."	"I Will Shake Heaven And Earth."
Topic	The Temple Of God		The Blessings Of God	
	First Rebuke (Present)	First Encouragement (Future)	Second Rebuke (Present)	Second Encouragement (Future)
Location	Jerusalem			
Time	September 1 520 B.C.	October 21 520 B.C.	December 24 520 B.C.	December 24 520 B.C.

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