

Minor Prophets...

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of Haggai

Hag. 1:1-11

...Major Message

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Hag. 1:1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4 *Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house *lie* waste?

5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

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6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes.

7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, *it came* to little; and when ye brought *it* home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that *is* waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

10 Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed *from* her fruit.

11 And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon *that* which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

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CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

Haggai is the second shortest book of the Old Testament, after Obadiah.

The book contains four short messages that Haggai preached to the returned Jews in less than four months of one year, 520 B.C. Haggai was clearly aware that the messages he preached to

- He wrote no diatribe against idolatry.
- He said nothing of social ills and abuses of the legal system,
- He did not preach against adultery or syncretism.
- His one theme was rebuilding God's temple." [15]

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This book and Hosea are the only inspired prophetic writings in the Old Testament that do not contain one or more oracles against foreign nations.

Each of Haggai's four messages deals with one of these perils. The four perils are as follows:

- misplaced priority
- incorrect perspective
- unrealistic expectation
- unnecessary fear

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We are now in a position to point out the living message of this book. It is that whenever God's people face problems involving fulfilling His will, we should do our duty as the Word of God reveals it, with the assurance that when we do, God Himself will provide all that we need to succeed.

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

Mt. 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

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Ezra 1:8 Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto **Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah**. ...

11 All the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand and four hundred. All *these* did **Sheshbazzar** bring up with *them of* the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

Ezra 5:14 And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto *one*, whose name was **Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor**; ...

16 Then came the same **Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem**: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet **it is not finished**.
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I. THE CALL TO BUILD, 1:1-15

A. The Background, 1:1-2

Hag. 1:1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

1. The Period, 1:1a – “In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month...” Ezra 2:1-2, 64-65

Ezra 4:6 And in the **reign of Ahasuerus**, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they *unto him* an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

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Esther 1:1 Now it came to pass **in the days of Ahasuerus**, (this *is* Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, *over* an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

Ezra 4:24 Then ceased the work of the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. So **it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.**

2. The Prophet, 1:1b – “...came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet...”

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Ezra 4:1 Now when **the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin** heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel;

2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, **Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do**; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, **Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God**; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

4 Then **the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,**

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5 And **hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose**, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

6 And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they *unto him* an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. ...

24 Then ceased the work of the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. So **it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.**

3. The Problem, 1:2

Hag. 1:2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.**

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Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.**

B. The Burden, 1:3-11

1. Its Context, 1:3-4

Hag. 1:3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4 *Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house *lie* waste? **...Major Message**

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2 Sam. 7:2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet,
See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God
dwelleth within curtains.

Phil. 2:20 For I have no man likeminded, who will
naturally care for your state.

21 **For all seek their own, not the things which are
Jesus Christ's.**

2. Its Content, 1:5-11

a. The Jews' Condition Exposed, 1:5-6

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Hag. 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts;

Consider your ways.

6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes.

Lev. 26:18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then **I will** punish you seven times more for your sins.

19 And **I will** break the pride of your power; and **I will** make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

20 And **your strength shall be spent in vain**: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

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"An affluent generation of Christians that is wasting God's generous gifts on trivia and toys will have much to answer for when the Lord returns."

Warren W. Wiersbe, "Haggai," in *The Bible Exposition Commentary/Prophets*, p. 445.

Hag. 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts;

Consider your ways. ...

1:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Consider your ways.**

2:15 And now, I pray you, **consider** from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD: ...

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2:18 **Consider** now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth *month, even* from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, **consider it.**

Deut. 32:29 O that they were wise, *that* they understood this, ***that they would consider their latter end!***

a. The Jews' Condition Explained, 1:7-11

(1) The Cause, 1:7-9

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Hag. 1:7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Consider your ways.**

8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and **I will** take pleasure in it, and **I will be glorified, saith the LORD.**

9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, *it came* to little; and when ye brought *it* home, **I did** blow upon it. **Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that *is* waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.**

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Hag. 1:5 Now therefore thus **saith the LORD of hosts**; Consider your ways. ...

7 Thus **saith the LORD of hosts**; Consider your ways. ...

9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, *it came* to little; and when ye brought *it* home, I did blow upon it. Why? **saith the LORD of hosts**. Because of mine house that *is* waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

2:4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, **saith the LORD**; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, **saith the LORD**, and work: for I *am* with you, **saith the LORD of hosts**: ...

6 For thus **saith the LORD of hosts**; Yet once, it *is* a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*;

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7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, **saith the LORD of hosts.**

8 The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, **saith the LORD of hosts.**

9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, **saith the LORD of hosts:** and in this place will I give peace, **saith the LORD of hosts. ...**

11 Thus **saith the LORD of hosts;** Ask now the priests *concerning* the law, saying, ...

23 In that day, **saith the LORD of hosts,** will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, **saith the LORD,** and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, **saith the LORD of hosts.**

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(2) The Consequences, 1:10-11

Hag. 1:10 Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed *from* her fruit.

11 And **I called for a drought** upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon *that* which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

"Those who plan to give to God 'once they have enough for themselves' will never have enough for themselves!"
Charles H. Dyer, in *The Old Testament Explorer*, p. 816.

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Conclusion

Psa. 106:12 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.

13 They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:

14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

15 And **he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.**

Psa. 37:3 **Trust in the LORD, and do good**; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4 **Delight thyself also in the LORD**; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 **Commit thy way unto the LORD**; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

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