

**THE COMING AND GREATER GLORY**  
**PREACHING THROUGH THE BIBLE: HAGGAI**  
**Haggai 2:5-9**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**A. BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The Babylonian Captivity ended and the ‘remnant’ started returning to Judah. Work to rebuild the Temple began, but after sixteen years it stalled. At first, the work was interrupted because of local opposition. Since then, the people have become more focused on their personal affairs and comfort of their own homes than on finishing the Temple. Haggai and Zechariah urged the people to renew the work. After Haggai’s strong rebuke prompted them to action, he encouraged them when they became disappointed that the new Temple did not seem as glorious as the old one. He reminded them that despite their unworthiness, God would honor their belated obedience by blessing them and re-establishing His kingdom.

**B. TITLE**

1. HEBREW

- a. **chaggay**—from **chag** [feast/festival]
- b. Meaning = ‘festive’
- c. Possibly and abbreviation of **chaggiah**—meaning ‘festival of Jahweh’
  - Note: Haggai’s second sermon (2:1ff) was delivered during the Feast of Tabernacles

2. SEPTUAGINT

- **Αγγιος**

3. LATIN

- **Aggaeus**

**C. PLACE IN THE HEBREW BIBLE**

1. PART OF THE LATTER PROPHETS—THE TRULY ‘PROPHETIC’ BOOKS OF THE OT
2. TENTH OF THE TWELVE MINOR PROPHETS
3. THE FIRST POST-EXILIC PROPHET

**D. AUTHOR**

## 1. AUTHORSHIP

- a. Haggai—attributed in **1:1**
- b. Mentioned 9 times in the book—**1:1,3, 12-13; 2:1, 10, 13-14, 20**

## 2. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

- a. Identified as ‘the prophet Haggai’
- b. Preached before Zechariah—based on dates given for their sermons
- c. Probably older than Zechariah
  1. Precedence given to him by Ezra

**Ezra 5:1**—*When Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied . . .*

2. Possibly born in Judah *before* the exile
  - a. He may have seen the glory of the first Temple
  - b. Some scholars say his questions in **2:3** was based on personal experience

**2:3**—*Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?*

- c. If so—Haggai was about 75 years old when he prophesied

## E. SETTING

1. Cyrus of Persia defeated Belshazzar of Babylonia—**539**
2. Cyrus’s Decree—**538 BC**—**Ezra 1**

**Ez 1:2-4**—*The Lord God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel. He is the God who is in Jerusalem. Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.*

3. Return of remnant—began 538—under Governor Zerubbabel—**Ezra 1**
4. Rebuilding of Temple
  - a. 536—began with restoration of altar—then laying of foundation—**Ezra 3**

- b. 534—initial suspension of work—**Ezra 4**
  - Following Samaritan opposition and decree by Artaxerxes
- c. After 534—continued suspension—**Haggai 1**
  - People did not renew work on Temple—but focused on own homes and business
  - God struck land with wind, mildew, and hail—causing crop failure and desolation
- d. 520 and following—renewal of work—**Ezra 5; Haggai 1**
  - Haggai exhorted people to resume rebuilding
  - Work renewed under Zerubbabel and High Priest Joshua
  - Persian Governor Tattenai—challenged existence of Cyrus-decree—**Ezra 5**
  - Darius confirmed Cyrus’s decree—ordered Tattenai to assist—**Ezra 6**
- e. 515—Temple completed on 3 Adar (March)—6<sup>th</sup> year of Darius’s reign—**Ezra 6:15-18**

## F. DATE

Haggai gives precise dates for sermons and events in the book

1. Sermon One—**1:1**—1 September 520
2. Rebuilding renewed—**1:15**—24 September 520
3. Sermon Two—**2:1**—21 October 520
4. Sermon Three—**2:10**—24 December 520
5. Sermon Four—**2:20**—24 December 520

## G. STYLE AND GENRE

1. Four oracles preached as sermons
2. And narrative description of remnant’s response

## H. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

1. Third shortest book in the Old Testament—after Obadiah, then Nahum
2. **Ezra chapters 1-6** give background events for the setting of Haggai.
3. **Zechariah** also encourages the returning remnant to rebuild the Temple.
4. **Zerubbabel**—is the genealogical link of this generation to the coming Messiah
  - a. Prophesied by Haggai

**Hag 2:23**—*On that day, declares the Lord of hosts, ‘I will take you Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant, declares the Lord, and I will make you like the signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the Lord of hosts.*

- b. Fulfilled in the New Testament genealogies of Christ
  - 1. On Joseph’s side—from David through Solomon—**Mt 1:12**
  - 2. On Mary’s side—from David through Nathan—**Lk 3:27**

## **I. THEMES**

- 1. VALUE AND CARE FOR OF THE LORD’S HOUSE
- 2. VALUE EVEN MORE—THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD HIMSELF
- 3. GOD’S GLORY IS NOT MEASURED BY THE SPLENDOR OF THE BUILDING
- 4. GOD CAN USE PEOPLE EVEN WHEN THEY ARE UNWORTHY
- 5. GOD IS OFFENDED BY DISOBEDIENT SELFISHNESS AND INGRATITUDE
- 6. GOD BLESSES OBEDIENCE
- 7. GOD WILL ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM

## **J. OUTLINE**

INTRODUCTION—God Addresses Zerubbabel—**1:1-2**

SERMON ONE—God Rebukes the Remnant—**1:3-11**

RESPONSE—The Remnant Repents and Renews Rebuilding—**1:12-15**

SERMON TWO—Former and Coming Glory—**2:1-9**

SERMON THREE—Unworthiness of the People—and God’s Blessing—**2:10-19**

SERMON FOUR—God Will Establish His Kingdom—**2:20-23**

## **II. BIBLICAL TEXT**

**Haggai 2:4-9**—*4 But now take courage, Zerubbabel,’ declares the LORD, ‘take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the Lord of hosts. 5 ‘As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!’ 6 For thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. 7 I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord of hosts. 8 ‘The silver is Mine and the*

*gold is Mine,' declares the Lord of hosts. 9 'The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the Lord of hosts."*

### III. EXPOSITION

#### A. BACKGROUND

##### 1. HOW OLDER PERSONS RESPONDED TO THE FOUNDATION OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TEMPLE

- a. Because the splendor of the new one was not as great—they were saddened

*Ezra 3:12—Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes.*

- b. This is the basis of Haggai's question—in **verse 3**

##### 2. WHAT WAS MISSING IN THE NEW TEMPLE?

- a. It was not as splendid in wealth—the people were poor

- b. Four things were missing

1. The Ark of the Covenant—contents listed in **Heb 9:4**
2. The Presence of the Lord
3. The Urim and Thummim—**Ex 28:30**
4. The Eternal Flame—**Ex 27:20-21**

- c. Ark of the Covenant

1. Jewish tradition says—Jeremiah took and buried it secretly

2. Contents

- a. Ten Commandments

- Law that guided Israel—basis of God's covenant with them

- b. Aaron's rod

1. Represented miraculous power and authority

- a. Power—transformed into a snake—it ate pharaoh's snakes

- b. Authority—it bloomed—to show that Levites held the priestly office

2. Shepherd's rod—to guide and protect the people

- c. Manna
  - Represented God’s daily provision and care of Israel
- d. Mercy Seat
  1. Mercy—‘**cheched**’—derived from ‘cover’ and ‘wipe out’ or ‘cleanse’
    - Blood sprinkled on Day of Atonement for propitiation for sins
  2. Presence of God and Prophecy
    - a. God appeared above the Mercy Seat on the Day of Atonement
    - b. God spoke to Moses between two angels above mercy seat
- d. Presence of the Lord
  1. His glorious appearance—the Shekinah
  2. The Spirit of Holiness—**ruach ha-Kodesh**
- e. Urim and Thummim
  - To discern the will of God
- f. Eternal Flame
  - The **ner tamid**—symbolized God’s presence and Torah life (fire) among Jews

## **B. GOD ENCOURAGES JUDAH WITH FOUR PROMISES**

- ❖ **HIS PRESENCE**
- ❖ **RESTORATION OF HIS HOUSE**
- ❖ **GREATER GLORY**
- ❖ **HIS PEACE**

1. GOD WILL BE WITH THEM—THE PRESENCE OF GOD
  - *I am with you*—v4
  - *My Spirit is abiding in your midst*—v5
2. GOD WILL RESTORE HIS HOUSE
  - a. Exhortation—be confident of this—**vv4-6**
    1. As surely as I delivered your fathers from Egypt

2. **Take courage**—three times—and **do not fear**
  - Same language God used with Moses and Joshua
3. His providential control of all creation
  - I will shake the heavens, earth, sea, and land
- b. His powerful ability to deliver—**vv4-9**
  - Six times—God speaks as the *Lord of Hosts*
  - Jehovah the Commander of a great army
- c. Evidence from the past—gives assurance for the future—**vv6-8**
  1. Just as he shook creation before—in delivering Israel—He will do so again
  2. He will provide—from the wealth of the nations
    - a. Implication—just as He despoiled the Egyptians for the tabernacle
    - b. Implication—just as many nations contributed to the building of the first Temple
    - c. Implication—this will be for a universal kingdom—as Isaiah promises—**Is 66**
    - d. Implication—points to heavenly kingdom—glory of all nations will enter—**Rev 22**
- d. God is able to do this—**v8**
  - Because the wealth of all creation—gold/silver—belong to Him

## **C. THE LATTER GLORY WILL BE GREATER THAN THE FORMER**

### 1. PARTIAL FULFILMENT

- By Hasmonean expansion
- By Herod's more extensive renovation and expansion

### 2. MESSIANIC FULFILMENT—WITH JESUS CHRIST

- a. The Law—He fulfilled it
  - Obedience
  - Fuller explanation
  - His sacrifice—met the legal requirement
- b. Aaron's Rod

- All authority is given to me—**Mt 28**
- The Good Shepherd—**Jn 10**
- c. Pot of Manna
  - The Bread of Life—**Jn 6**
- d. Mercy Seat
  - His sacrifice is propitiation for our sins—**Rom 3; I Jn 2, 4**
- e. Presence of God
  - I and the Father are One—**Jn 10**
  - My house is to be called a house of prayer—**Jn 2**
  - His body became the new temple—raised on third day
- f. Urim and Thummim
  - Giving of the Holy Spirit—Pentecost—**Acts 2**
  - To discern God’s will—and to prophesy
- g. Eternal Flame
  - I am the Light of the world—**Jn 8**

#### **D. I WILL GIVE PEACE**

- Jesus Christ—Messianic Prince of Peace—**Is 9**
- Peace I give unto you—my peace I give you—**Jn 14**

### **IV. APPLICATION**

#### **A. THE LORD’S HOUSE**

##### **1. VALUE AND CARE FOR GOD’S HOUSE**

- a. **Illustration—Rumanian Baptists embellish their churches**
- b. Problem—sometimes—with our Baptist iconoclasm and utilitarianism—and selfishness

##### **2. WHAT MATTERS MOST—IS GOD’S PRESENCE**

- a. Value this—even more than the house
- b. Don’t measure splendor by fabric and size, but by presence
- c. Don’t measure success by numbers—but by whether the ONE is pleased



## B. OUR RELATION WITH THE LORD

1. GOD IS OFFENDED BY DISOBEDIENT SELFISHNESS AND INGRATITUDE
2. GOD CHERISHES AND BLESSES OBEDIENCE—IN STEWARDSHIP
3. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE UNWORTHY—HE CAN AND DOES STILL USE US!

## C. THE FUTURE GLORY—ANALOGIES

1. DOWNSIZING IS TRAUMATIC AND SADDENING
  - a. But square feet and price do not make the home—the presence of loved ones
  - b. The Lord is always with us—He is present—even when loved ones have passed on
  - c. The future glory is even greater than the past [or present]—**the Father's House!**
2. THIS OLD HOUSE—INEVITABLY BECOMES THE FORMER GLORY

### **THIS OLD HOUSE**

**This old house is gettin' shaky  
This old house is gettin' old  
This old house lets in the rain  
This old house lets in the cold  
On my knees I'm gettin' chilly  
But I feel no fear or pain  
'Cause I see an angel peepin'  
Through the broken window pane  
This old house is afraid of thunder  
This old house is afraid of storms  
This old house just blows and trembles  
When the night comes after dawn  
This old house is getting fragile  
This old house is in need of paint  
Just like me it's starting to die  
I'm getting ready to meet the saints  
Ain't gonna need this house no longer  
Ain't gonna need this house no more  
Ain't got time to fix the shingles  
Ain't got time to fix the floor  
Ain't got time to oil the hinges  
Nor to mend no window pain**

**Ain't gonna need this house no longer  
I'm getting ready to meet the saints**

3. THIS OLD HOUSE—WILL PUT ON FUTURE GLORY

**Ph 3:20-21**—*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that he has even to subject all things to Himself.*