

Week 12. The Prophets and the Return from Exile - Haggai

[1] INTRODUCTION

- a. **God's Set Time** (Ps 102:13)
- b. **The Second Year of King Darius** – 521 BC – see Haggai and Zechariah 1-6.

The Book of Ezra has the history of this period. The people's priority on return – the building of the altar of sacrifice (Ezra 3:1-6); then (Ezra 3:7ff) they began to rebuild the temple. But fierce opposition quickly halted the work (Ezra 4:24). Ezra 5-6: God worked for his people in providence through the pagan King Darius (see 6:7ff), so the building continued and the temple was completed within four years (Ezra 6:15). When God's set time has come nothing will be able to stop what He is about. He can use his opponents to further his work! Haggai: four prophetic oracles [ch 1; 2:1-9; 2:10-19; 2:20-23] within 4 months in 521.

[2] HAGGAI'S FIRST ORACLE

- a. **Haggai's Call to God's People to Adjust their Priorities (1:1-11)**

16-17 years of wrong priorities (1:2). Call to (v 8) '**Build the house**' = temple. -

- b. **The People's Response - A True Hearing of God's Word (1:12)**

Spiritual renewal came through a fresh hearing of the living word of God.

- c. **True Hearing of the Word was accompanied by a Spiritual Awakening (v 14)**

within just over three weeks of Haggai's initial oracle. The stirring up was done **by God**. Phil 2:13: 'it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.'

God had always been with them, as promised (1:13; 2:4, 5). But this was largely a chastening presence. See 1:6; 1:9: 'what you brought home **I** blew away ... (1:11) **I** called for a drought ... (2:17) **I** struck all the work of your hands, yet you did not turn to me, declares the Lord.' God's **chastisement/ judgement of mercy**, intended to bring his people to repentance.

[2] HAGGAI'S SECOND ORACLE (2:1-9)

On the 21st day of the 7th month, roughly seven weeks after Haggai's first prophetic word, and roughly four weeks after work began on temple. Work in danger of stalling.

Discouragement from older generation comparing the new with the old. Lord moved quickly to dispel discouragement through exhortations, assurances of support and promises, including

a. The Promise of a Glory-filled House/ Temple (2:7, 9)

(i) A Temple Filled with the Glory of God

Tabernacle. Exodus 25ff, finished at Ex 40:33, then (v 34) ‘the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle...’ so that there was no room for Moses! Solomon’s Temple. 1 Kings 5-7: preparations; ark of covenant final piece in place, then (8:10): ‘... the glory of the Lord filled the temple.’ Something similar promised here.

Jesus Christ (John 1:14) ‘tabernacled among us ... we have seen his glory ...’; John 2:19f; Col 2:9. The Temple of Believers. Eph 2:21f; Acts 2:2ff; Acts 2:4 ‘all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ...’ Temple of the New Creation. Rev 21:11.

(ii) A Temple Filled with the Glory of the Nations [‘desired = treasures of all nations]

The Exodus and Tabernacle. ‘Plunder(ing) the Egyptians’ (Ex 12:36). These they later bought for the construction of the tabernacle. The treasures of Egypt adorned the tabernacle! Solomon’s Temple. Cedars of Lebanon, etc, adorned the temple. Post-exilic Temple (Ezra 6) - ‘magnificent’ temple (Mk 13:1).

1 Peter 2:5. The Body of Christ drawn from all the nations = the new temple (‘living stones ... a spiritual house’). Hebrews 12:26f eschatological. Revelation 21:24: ‘the nations will walk by its light [the glory of God which is the light of the city], and the kings of earth will bring their splendour into it ... (v 26) the glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it.’ All the wealth of the nations is the Lord’s to use as he pleases.

[4] A PEOPLE IN WAITING

The post exilic prophets still looking forward to the time of fulfilment of the prophecies concerning (i) the coming Davidic/ Messianic King and his kingdom (Mic 5:2; Is 9:6; 11:1ff; Hg 2:21-23; Zech 9:9; etc); (ii) the new covenant (Jer 31:31-34; etc); (iii) the outpouring of the Spirit of God in the last days (Isa 32:15; 44:13; Joel 2:28-32; etc); (iv) the in-gathering of the nations (Is 2:1-5; Is 60; etc); and so much more ... **all awaiting their fulfilment in Jesus:** the new Adam; the new Noah; the new Ark; the seed of Abraham; the new Moses; the new Joshua; the new David/ Messianic King; the new temple-building Solomon; etc etc