

Haggai
Sep 3, 2023

Introduction:

In 538 B.C., about fifty thousand Jews left Babylon and returned to their homeland to rebuild the temple and restore the nation. In 536, they laid the foundation of the temple; but the work was stopped by their enemies and was not resumed until 520 under the preaching of Haggai and Zechariah. (see Ezra 1 - 6).

Haggai is the first of three prophets to minister to Judah after the Babylonian captivity. His recorded ministry spans only three months of 520 BC, but his words break a lethargy which has lasted sixteen years.

The bulk of Haggai's prophecy is personal to Zerubbabel the governor (political leader) and to Joshua the high priest (religious leader). The remainder contains rebuke encouragement to the priest and to the people. Interwoven among the prophecies concerning the literal temple are prophecies pertaining to the spiritual temple - the church.

Christ is seen:

As our Prophet (seen in Haggai),

Jn 1:25 They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" (Jn 1:21; Mt 21:11; Dt 18:15, 18)

As our Priest (seen in Joshua),

Psa 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Heb 7:28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever.

(Heb 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 5:5-6, 10; 6:20; 7:26-28; 8:1-3; 9:11; 10:21)

As our Prince (seen in Zerubbabel),

Ac 5:31 "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. (Ac 3:15)

In Biblical times, kings typically wore signet rings (a symbol of power). In the Book of Haggai, the Lord promised to put Zerubbabel on His finger. Earlier God had removed the signet ring of authority from Zerubbabel's grandfather (see Jer 22:24-30).

Zerubbabel was the grandson of Jehoiachin, [a.k.a. Jeconiah, or Coniah] the king of Judah, who had been taken captive 70 years before they returned to the land (see 2Ki 24:12-15). Therefore, Zerubbabel was an heir to the throne of his ancestor David.

Though Zerubbabel's grandfather Jehoiachin was earlier discarded by the Lord like an unwanted signet ring, in Zerubbabel the chosen status of the Davidic line was restored (Hag 2:19-23).

Zerubbabel was one of the ancestors of Christ (Mt 1:12) and foreshadowed his faithful zeal to build God's house (Jn 2:17).

He is the Builder of the Lord's house - the church.

Mt 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

Heb 3:4-6 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. 5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

God Dwelling with Man

The focus of Haggai is on the rebuilding of the house of the Lord. The key to applying the book is to see that the temple, like the tabernacle before it, was the visible symbol of God dwelling in the midst of His people, and therefore it foreshadows Christ, the one in whom the Word became flesh and “tabernacled” in our midst.

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt [lit. tabernacled] among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christ himself is the new temple in the New Testament.

Jn 2:19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

So is the church (His body,) also the new temple.

Eph 2:18-22 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Eph 2:16-22)

The message of this book for Christians is not primarily about restoring a building in Jerusalem, or about constructing a contemporary building. Haggai is all about the ongoing work of building up the people of God, a work that is primarily God’s (Mt 16:18 ... I will build My church...).

By His Spirit, He also invites us to participate (1Cor 3:10-17).

1Cor 3:10-11 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Prophetic Promise:

Hag 2:6-9 “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.”

‘Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, (Heb 12:25-29)

The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former

Joel 2:23 So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before. ... Joel 2:28-29 I will pour out My Spirit

Hag 2:21-23 “Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, ‘I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. 22 ‘I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.’ 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 a signet ring, for I have chosen you,’” declares the LORD of hosts.