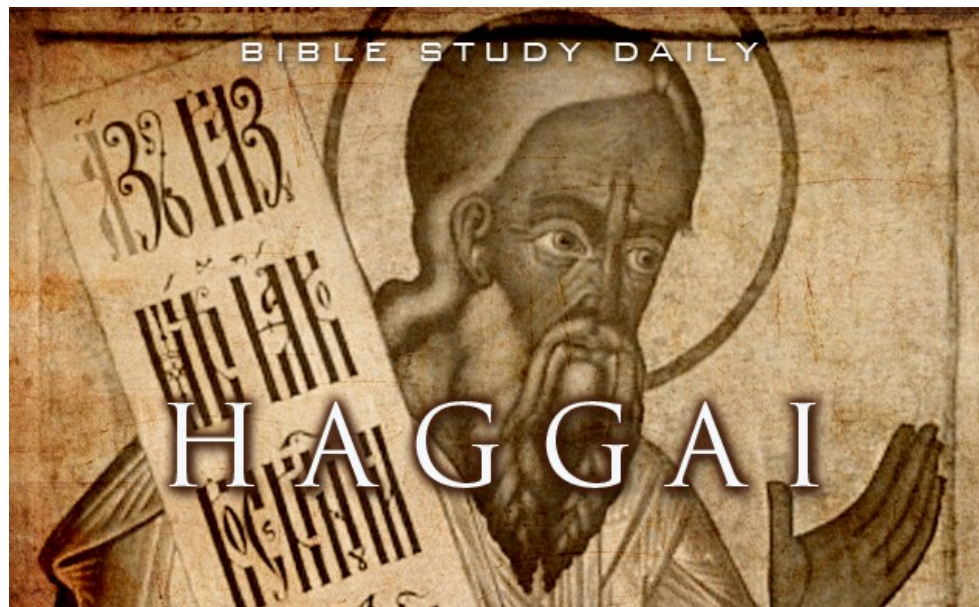




# BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of Haggai as well as my study notes for the book.

## Name

The book of Haggai is named for its author, Haggai. Haggai means “festival” or “festive.”

## Author

Haggai the prophet received the word of the Lord (v. 1). He is the first of three prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi) who prophesied after the return of the exiles from Babylon.

## Genre

Prophecy (tenth of twelve books commonly referred to as the “Minor Prophets”). Note also the use of the “messenger formula” in 1:2, 1:7, 1:13; 2:4, 2:6-9, 2:11, 2:14, 2:23. The messenger formula takes the form of “Thus says the Lord...”, “messenger of the Lord”, and “declares the Lord” as Haggai’s way of emphasizing that he is simply conveying an important message from the Lord.

## Literary Form

Primarily prophetic prose except for two short sections of poetry in chapter 1 (v. 6, and vv. 10-11).

## Time Frame

Haggai specifically dates the book as the second year of King Darius which was 520 B.C.

## Emphasis

The emphasis of Haggai is for the returned exiles to honor God by putting Him first in their lives. Secondly, Haggai was exhorting the people to glorify God by rebuilding the temple. In this work they should not worry about their own needs, or get discouraged, but focus on putting God first.

## Outline

Haggai is laid out in chronological order beginning on September 1, 520 B.C. and concluding on December 24, 520 B.C.

- 1) A call to the people to rebuild the temple of God (1:1-1:15)
- 2) Discouraged people receive encouragement from the Lord (2:1-2:9)
- 3) An explanation of the Law to the people (2:10-2:19)
- 4) Israel’s restoration is promised (2:20-2:23)

# What I Noticed Today (Haggai 1-2)

## Haggai

Haggai delivers four dated messages to the leaders and people of Judah to direct their spiritual lives and behavior. They must glorify God, remain committed to God's plans, live holy lives, and serve God faithfully.

## Haggai 1

**Message 1.** In verse 1 the word of the Lord came to Haggai in the second year of Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month (August 29, 520 B.C.).

In verses 2-6 Haggai addresses the leaders and calls on them to get busy rebuilding the Lord's house. They have rebuilt their own houses but the Lord's house lies in ruins. The Lord challenges them to consider how they are living and why they never seem to have enough. It is clear they are not receiving the Lord's blessings because they have not yet followed His instructions to rebuild the temple.

**Note:** In verse 2 the Lord addresses "these" people who have made excuses for not building the temple. They are not yet "His" people because their priorities are focused on themselves, not on God.

In verses 7-11 the Lord challenges them again to get started with the rebuilding of the temple. The people did not realize that the reason their harvest were poor and they were not enjoying God's blessing because they were not yet being obedient to Him.

In verses 12-15 Haggai records the people responded to the Lord's prompting and began to rebuild the Lord's house on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the sixth month of the second year of Darius (September 21, 520 B.C.). It began when the Lord had stirred the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of the governor, and Joshua son of the high priest, then the spirit of the remnant.

**Note:** It is interesting that Haggai calls out not the governor and the high priest as leading the people in the work, but the son of the governor and the son of the high priest as being stirred to begin the rebuilding.

## Haggai 2

**Message 2.** In verse 1 the second message from the Lord came to Haggai on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the seventh month of the second year of Darius (October 17, 520 B.C.).

In verses 2-5 the Lord tells Haggai to speak to Zerubbabel and Joshua and the remnant asking them three questions: 1) Who was alive and knows what

the temple looked like before? 2) How does the temple look now? and 3) Does it seem to you like nothing?

**Note:** There were those who made comparisons between the glory of the old temple and the one to be rebuilt and they were discouraged.

The Lord encouraged them to be strong (v. 4a), to work (v. 4b), and to fear not (v. 5).

In verses 6-9 the Lord says in a little while He will shake the heavens and earth and shake the nations so that the treasures will return and the glory of the Lord's house will be restored. And the glory of this house will be greater than the former.

**Note:** The phrase "in a little while" does not suggest immediacy but that the event could happen at any time. The description of the restored temple and greater glory is a reference to the Lord who will inhabit His house in the Millennium.

**Message 3.** In verse 11 the third message of the Lord came to Haggai on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the ninth month of the second year of Darius (December 18, 520 B.C.).

**Note:** In the two months since message 2, the prophet Zechariah began his prophetic ministry (Zechariah 1:1).

In verses 11-13 the Lord commanded Haggai to ask the priests about the laws governing clean and unclean ceremonial meat. The question is asked if the ceremonial clean meat is placed in an unclean bag does the bag become clean. Answer, no. If a ceremonially clean person touches a dead body does he become unclean? Answer, yes. Haggai then draws a parallel to the people. If they are defiled, what they offer to the Lord is defiled, and the Lord cannot bless it.

In verses 15-19 Haggai reminds the people of how they had not experienced blessing before because of their defiled condition. The Lord had punished them (chastened) yet they had not returned to Him. Haggai challenged the people to think back three months when they started the work and realize their conditions were bleak but from this point forward the Lord would bless them IF they remained faithful in rebuilding the temple.

**Message 4.** In verses 20 the word of the Lord came to Haggai a second time that day (same day as message 3).

In verses 21-23 The Lord tells Haggai to speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, and tell him the Lord was about to shake the nations, overthrow kingdoms, and destroy them. On that day, the Lord will make Zerubbabel a signet ring because the Lord has chosen him.

**Note:** The signet ring was a sign of royal authority (see Jeremiah 22:24-25).