

# HAGGAI

A 5 Day Bible Study

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**Read Haggai 1:1-8**

The temple, built under Solomon in the 10th century BC (see 1 Kings 6), was destroyed when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in 587/586 BC (see 2 Kings 25:1-21). It remained in ruins while the Jewish people lived in captivity in Babylon. The fall of Babylon to Persia in 539 BC is described in Daniel 5, bringing Cyrus to power.

1. Read Ezra 1:1-8 and recount the astounding turn of events for the Jewish captives.
2. Who were the leaders of the building project, according to Ezra 3:8?
3. From Ezra 4:1-24, record the tactics taken by those who opposed the building project, and the end result.
4. From Haggai 1:1-8, summarize the main point of Haggai's message, when and to whom it was delivered.

What types of opposition discourage you from following God's call on your life? Pray for courage to move ahead despite obstacles that come.

**Read Haggai 1:1-11**

1. What name for God did Haggai use throughout his message (v. 2, 5, 7, 9)? Look up this name in various versions of the Bible, and explain what it means.
2. Describe the disparity between what the people spent on themselves versus what they invested in spiritual efforts.

What was actually keeping the people from re-building? (also see Matt 6:21 & 33)

3. What was behind the frustration the people experienced in their futile efforts to get ahead? (also see Deut 28:15-22 & 38-39)

How was this frustration a blessing in disguise? (see Heb 12:5-11)

What does your use of time and money in a given week say about your priorities?  
Do you think it is right? Why or why not?

**Read Haggai 1:12-15**

1. How did the people respond to Haggai's message, and what motivated that response?  
Record the relationship between God and the people during this time.

2. From the following verses, describe the fear of God and its results.

Deuteronomy 5:29, 31:12-13

Psalm 34:9-11

Proverbs 8:13

Proverbs 9:10

Luke 1:50, 12:4-5

2 Corinthians 7:1

3. Practically speaking, what would have been involved in the decision to work on the temple?  
What would the people have to sacrifice?

4. What do you learn about obedience to God from the passages below?

John 13:15-17

John 14:21

1 John 2:3-4

1 John 5:2-3

What act of obedience have you been putting off, thinking the time is not right?  
What will you do today?

**Read Haggai 2:1-9**

1. What was significant about the day Haggai delivered this message to the people?  
(see Lev 23:39-43)
  
2. How did the new temple compare to the old one, and what was the response of those old enough to remember? (also see Ezra 3:12)
  
3. In spite of the diminished glory of the temple, what several points of encouragement did the Lord give, and why was that important at this juncture?
  
4. How do the points of encouragement Haggai offered the people apply to you personally?  
In what situation do you need this encouragement?
  
5. Record additional details about the prophecy of verses 6-9. (also see Isa 2:2-3, 60:4-5, 61:6)

Substitute your name in verses 4-5 as God's encouragement to you.

**Read Haggai 2:10-23**

1. Summarize the main point of verses 11-14.
2. Explain the importance of personal holiness in our service to the Lord. (also see Heb 12:14-16, 1 Pet 1:13-16)
3. From verses 15-19, what difference did the people's obedience make?
4. What is associated with the shaking of heaven and earth?  
(see Ex 19:16-18, Isa 13:11-13, Mt 24:29-30)
5. What light does Hebrews 12:26-29 shed on this passage in Haggai?
6. Read Haggai 2:23 with Matthew 1:1 & 12. For what special honor was Zerubbabel chosen?

What principles or lessons stand out to you most from the book of Haggai?

