

# THE MINOR PROPHETS (Chronological Order)

## HAGGAI

### LESSON TEN

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Under King Nebuchadnezzar's rule, Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Babylonians in **586 B.C.**
2. Following Nebuchadnezzar's death in **562 B.C.**, weak rulers followed, as the Persian ruler Cyrus gained prominence on the world's stage.
3. Cyrus had conquered the Median king and united the Medes and the Persians by **549 B.C.**
4. In **539 B.C.** Cyrus conquered the city of Babylon – Nabonidus was the last King (cf. Nabonidus Chronicle; Cyrus Cylinder)– but while he was away, Belshazzar acted in his stead and fell before Cyrus and the Persian army.
5. Cyrus let those people who were conquered in the past go back to their home country and establish their respective religious practices–Cyrus in **538 B.C.** decreed the Jews to return and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel who returned to Jerusalem in **536 B.C.** (*Ezra 1:1-2:2; 2 Chronicles 36* )
6. Upon the Jews return to Jerusalem, the people restored the altar of sacrifices unto Jehovah and laid the foundation for the temple. But the work on building the temple ceased in **534 B.C.** when opposed by the Samaritans. Darius I, Hystaspes united his nation that had become divided, experiencing much turmoil after the death of Cyrus, and begin his reign in **522 B.C.**
7. Through the prophetic work of Haggai and Zechariah rebuilding resumed in **520 B.C** and was completed in **516 B.C.** (*cf. Ezra 4:24, 6:15*).

#### I. THE AUTHOR: Haggai

- A. A shortened form of "Haggaih" which means "festival" or "festive.
- B. Prophesied "in the name of God" to move the people who had returned to Jerusalem to finish building the temple that has been neglected for sixteen years (*Ezra 5:1-2; 6:14-16*).
- C. Haggai was focused upon his principal work- encourage the people to rebuild the temple.
- D. Emphasis upon the fact that His message was from God
  1. "The word of Jehovah" came unto him ( "by him" - Hag. 1:1, 3; 2:1,10; "unto Haggai" – 2:20
  2. "Thus saith Jehovah of hosts"(1:2,5,7,2:6,11)
    - a. "saith Jehovah of hosts" (1:9; 2:4,7,8,9, 23)
    - b. "saith Jehovah" (1:8,13; 2: 4 (twice), 14, 17)
- E. The People obeyed "the voice of Jehovah their God" – "words of Haggai the prophet" (1:12)
  1. Haggai – Jehovah's messenger in Jehovah's message (1:13)

**II. DATE OF THE BOOK: 520 B.C.**

- A. Second year of Darius the king (Darius I Hystaspes)
  - 1. Sixth month (1:1)
  - 2. Seventh month (2:1)
  - 3. Ninth month (2:10, 20)

**III. FEATURES OF THE BOOK:**

- A. Four aimed messages:
  - 1. To arouse ACTION -“Build the House” (1:8)
  - 2. To give SUPPORT –“I am with you” (2:4)
  - 3. To CONFIRM – “From this day I will bless you” (2:19)
  - 4. To ASSURE – “In that day will I make thee...” Messianic pointer (2:23)
- B. Moral Truths:
  - 1. Discouragement, however profound, is not an adequate reason for neglecting duties before God.
    - a. God will be with you as you work through the barriers.
  - 2. When a good work awaiting its accomplishment, the time to do is NOW!
- C. Lessons to learn:
  - 1. The basis of all successful preaching is “saith Jehovah.”
  - 2. Procrastination is a contagious sin – unholiness is contagious

**IV. OUTLINE OF THE BOOK**

- A. First message – Rebuke for religious indifference and admonition to build the temple (1:1-15)
  - 1. The people’s selfishness and unconcern (v. 2-6)
  - 2. The Divine displeasure and exhortation to resume building (v.7-11)
  - 3. Stirred spirits begin needed work (v. 12-15)
- B. Second message – Consolation to those in despair and the glory of the new temple (2:1-9)
  - 1. Jehovah’s presence with the builders (v. 1-5)
  - 2. Temple’s future glory (v. 6-9)
- C. Third message – Completion of the temple a guarantee of blessings of nature (2:10-19)
  - 1. People’s uncleanness a result of their own conduct (v. 10-14)
  - 2. Indifference has produced calamity – Zeal will restore prosperity (v.15-19)

- D. Fourth message – Renewal of the promise of salvation and exaltation of Zerubbabel (2:20-23)
1. Overthrow of the nations (v. 20-22)
  2. Messianic hope preserved in Zerubbabel (v. 23).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. In what year was the “second year of Darius the king?”
2. God’s first message through Haggai was directed to whom?
3. What did the people say about building the temple?
4. What had the people been doing while the temple was in ruins (1:4)
5. One’s lack of physical prosperity has nothing to do with spiritual faithfulness. (True) (False)
6. Haggai as a prophet of Jehovah was Jehovah’s \_\_\_\_\_ delivering Jehovah’s \_\_\_\_\_.
7. How important is zealous leadership in accomplishing what God would have His people to do?
8. What is God’s method in “stirring up man’s spirit?”
9. How did the second temple compare with the first one (2:3)
10. What truth can we rely upon that makes us spiritually strong?

11. When was Haggai's prophecy of the "later glory" of God's temple fulfilled?
12. How does Haggai apply the Law of Moses regarding "uncleanness" to God's people?
13. Why did God send hail, mildew, and blight to the people (2:17)?
14. How was Zerubbabel like a "signet ring" (2:23)?