

Sermon, November 6, 2011
“The Glory of God”, Haggai 2:1-9
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The Books of Prophecy

- Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, **Haggai**, Zechariah, Malachi

Overview of Haggai¹:

- The prophet Haggai is the likely author, “the festal one”
- The time of the writing is 520 BC.
- Second shortest book in the Old Testament.
- In 538 B.C., as a result of the proclamation of Cyrus the Persian (cf. Ezra 1:1–4), Israel was allowed to return from Babylon to her homeland under the civil leadership of Zerubbabel and the spiritual guidance of Joshua the High-Priest (cf. Ezra 3:2).
- About 50,000 Jews returned. In 536 B.C., they began to rebuild the temple (cf. Ezra 3:1–4:5) but opposition from neighbors and indifference by the Jews caused the work to be abandoned (cf. Ezra 4:1–24).
- Sixteen years later Haggai and Zechariah were commissioned by the Lord to stir up the people to 1) not only rebuild the temple, but also to 2) reorder their spiritual priorities (cf. Ezra 5:1–6:22). As a result, the temple was completed 4 years later (ca. 516 B.C.; cf. Ezra 6:15).
- **Overall Outline of Haggai:**
 - I. First message: The call to rebuild the temple (1:1-11)
 - II. The response of Zerubbabel and the people (1:12-15)
 - III. Second message: The temple to be filled with God’s glory (2:1-9)
 - IV. Third message: A defiled people purified and blessed (2:10-19)
 - V. Fourth message: The promise to Zerubbabel (2:20-23)

Major Themes of Haggai:

- Rebuilding of the temple requires a rebuilding of your heart.
- In your overindulgence you neglect God.
- Focus your attention on the Lord and you will be blessed.

The message of Haggai is the glory of God to come in Jesus Christ, and the new temple of the greatest glory...the presence of the Holy Spirit in believers.

1. God questions the remnant

Haggai 2:1-3

- Through Haggai God delivers His message to the remnant, those who returned to Jerusalem from Babylon under the leadership of Zerubbabel.
- He questions the leaders, Zerubbabel and Jehozadak, and the remnant of the people.
- There is a stark contrast between the temple of Solomon and this temple that is obvious to any who can compare.

2. Yet the LORD encourages the leaders and people to continue on

Haggai 2:4-5

- God encourages the people because His presence is with them.
- The work to be done is necessary for the sovereign God to further His purposes...
 - (1) God among His people when rebuilding the temple,
 - (2) God physically present (Jesus Christ),
 - (3) the crucifixion and the curtain of the temple torn in two,
 - (4) the Holy Spirit dwells in His people.
- **Exodus 6:6-7** ⁶ "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷ 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God;

¹MacArthur, John Jr: *The MacArthur Study Bible*. electronic ed. Nashville : Word Pub., 1997, c1997, Haggai 1:1

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- The people of God rely on, are comforted from, renew their strength on the presence of God.
- **Isaiah 40:31; Isaiah 12:2; New Testament... Philippians 4:13**
- God assures the people v.2:5, that His Spirit is among them as they continue to rebuild the temple
- Jesus assures His disciples the presence of the Holy Spirit to come after His physical presence departs but in a different way, **John 14:25-26, Acts 1:8** ⁸ *but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;*
- Apostle Paul furthers the understanding of the presence of God’s Holy Spirit to dwell in believers, the New Testament temple; **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** ¹⁹ *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*

3. Haggai prophecies the great “shaking” that will take place.
Haggai 2:6-8

- The shake-up will occur. So great that (1) the treasure of all nations; silver and gold, will be God’s and (2) “*this house*” will be filled with glory.
- Something fantastic will come that will change the world.
- Daniel prophesied... **Daniel 2:44** ⁴⁴ *“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.*
- Paul tells us... **Galatians 4:4-5** ⁴ *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*
- Heaven and earth would indeed be shaken, Messiah would come and Jesus would draw His people to Himself, His treasure, **John 12:32** ³² *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”*
- The glory of God would come in His son, Jesus Christ
- **2 Corinthians 4:6** ⁶ *For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*
- **Revelation 21:23** ²³ *And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

4. The glory of that second old testament temple was nothing is comparison to the first temple of Solomon, but both would pale in comparison to the glory of God to come in Jesus Christ.
Haggai 2:9

- The great glory of God comes in Jesus Christ and the presence of God that dwells not only among you, not only upon you, but inside of you!
- **Isaiah 9:6** ...The Prince of peace came and through Him we have peace with God and are reconciled unto Him abide in the continuous presence of God...
- **Ephesians 2:17-22** ¹⁷ *And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ 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 upon 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.*

Conclusion:

- Jesus Christ came to be a sacrifice for our sins, sufficient for all, effective for those who believe and are born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit of God.
- For we are of one household; brothers and sisters together in one family, the family of God,
- We are the church, the body of Christ, the New Testament Temple in the Lord, built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
- ***The message of Haggai is the glory of God to come in Jesus Christ, and the new temple of the greatest glory...the presence of the Holy Spirit in believers.***