

Haggai and God's New Order

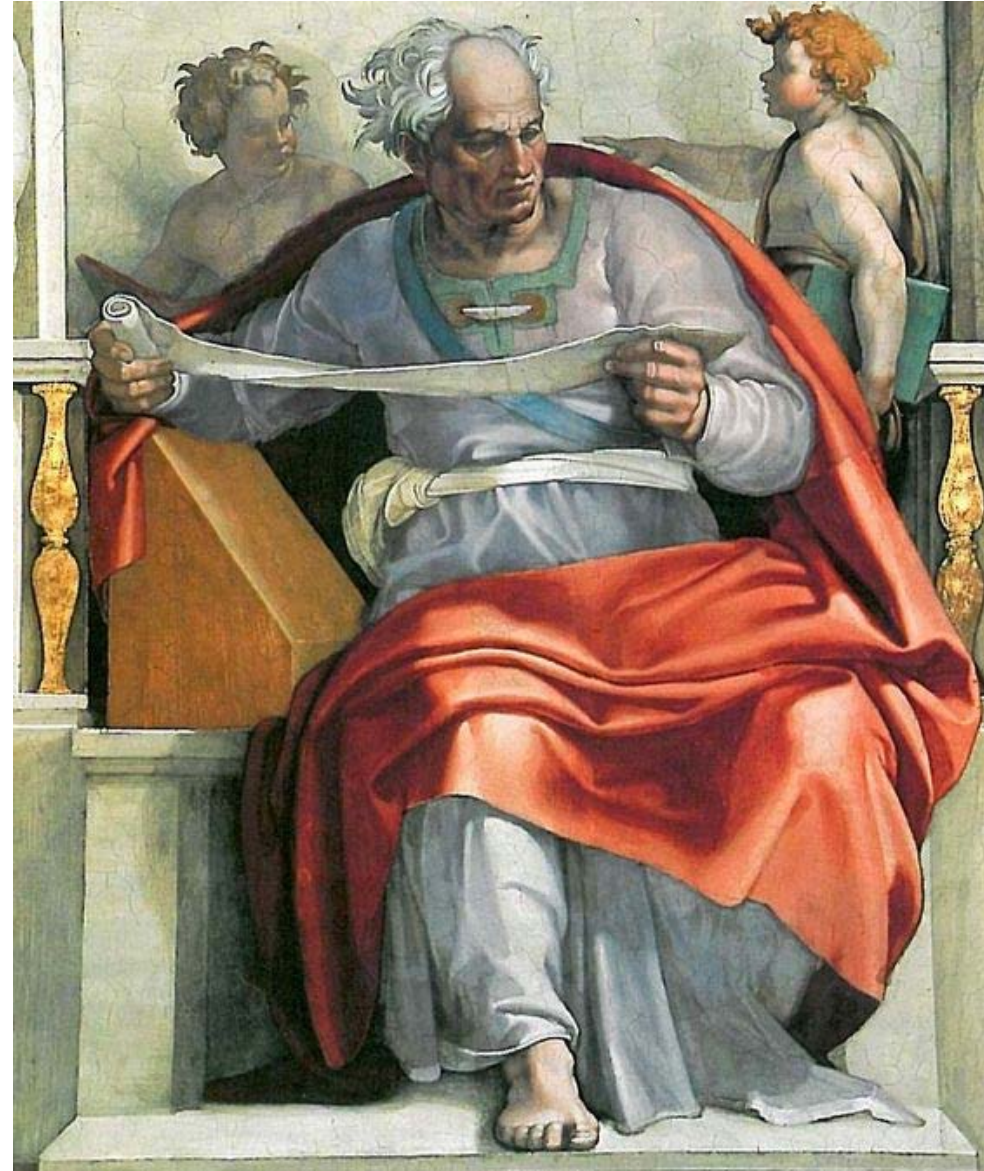
Building God's House

Seek first the Kingdom of God...

Consider (Give Careful Thought) to your Ways Haggai 1

- ⁵ Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "**Give careful thought to your ways.** (Hag 1:5 NIV)
- ⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says: "**Give careful thought to your ways.** (Hag 1:7 NIV)

Haggai the Prophet



The Larger Theological Context

Exilic and Post-exilic Prophets

- **Israel's Old Order** was gone
 - Solomon's *temple* in Jerusalem (Presence of Yahweh)
 - The *Priesthood* (Access to Yahweh)
 - The *Prophets* (Words from Yahweh)
 - The *King* (Rule of Yahweh)
- **A New Order** was promised (Jer 29, 31:31ff, etc.)
 - A *new Temple* (divine presence) in a restored City
 - A *renewed Priesthood* (divine access)
 - A fresh outbreak of *Prophecy* (divine word/Spirit)
 - A restored *Davidic kingship* (divine rule)

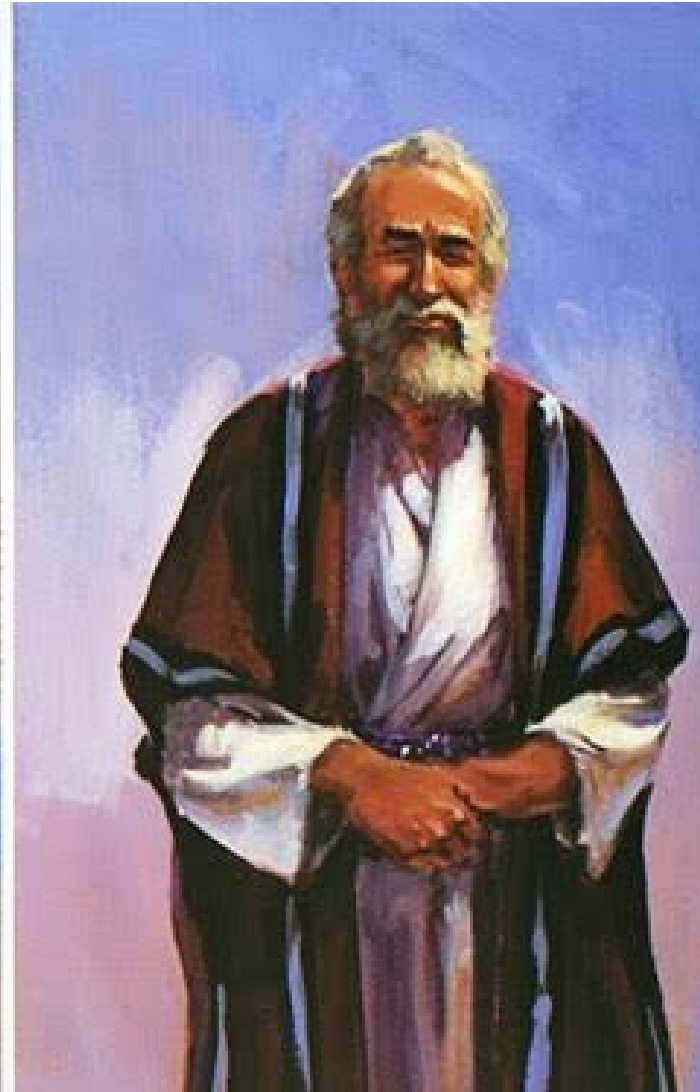
The Timeline for Haggai

- **587/586** Jerusalem (Old Order) Destroyed
 - Jeremiah's letter; Jer 29 (before destruction).
 - Seventy years: a long wait
 - A Promise of a New (Covenant) Order to come. Jer 31
- **539** Return under Zerubbabel. Ezra 1-2
 - **537 Altar, Tabernacles.** Temple foundation. Ezra 3
 - Opposition and abandonment. Ezra 4:24

The Timeline (continued)

- **520 B.C.** A new beginning (Ezra 4:24; Haggai 1:1)
 - **Haggai and Zechariah preach.** Ezra 5-6: Hag 1
 - Zerubbabel and Joshua leading. Ezra 5:2
 - Another obstacle is overcome. Ezra 5:3 – 6:12
 - Work begins. (Ezr 5; Haggai 1:13-15) in Sept 520
- **516 March.** Temple finished. Ezra 6:13-15.
 - March. Temple dedicated. Ezra 6:16-18
 - April. Passover celebrated. Ezra 6:19-22-

Haggai and Zechariah



Haggai the Man

- Ezra 5:1-2; 6:13-15. Years 520 B.C. to 515 B.C. (Ez 6:15)
 - Challenged Jews to get back to work
 - Influenced leaders: Zerubbabel (political) and Joshua (religious)
 - Joined in the building alongside the people. Ezra 5:2
- Haggai 1:1. Second year of Darius (Aug, 520)
 - Four times: 'the Word of the LORD came to/through Haggai
 - August – December 520 B.C.

Haggai the Book: its Setting Jerusalem, 520 B.C.

- In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month (Aug 520), the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua¹ son of Jozadak,² the high priest: (Hag 1:1 NIV)

Haggai the Book: Its Content

Four 'Confronting Words'

- **An introductory word** (1:1-2) and four '*word(s) of the LORD*', often supplemented by '*This is what 'Yahweh Saba'oth*' (NIV: LORD Almighty'; NLT: the LORD of Armies') *says*'
- **Four 'Words':** '*the Word of the LORD came to/through Haggai...*'
 - First Word: 1:3-15. the Rebuilding of God's House (Aug)
 - Second Word: 2:1-9. the Glory of God's House (Oct)
 - Third Word: 2:10-19. the Purification of God's House (Dec)
 - Fourth Word: 2:20-23. the King to rule over God's house (Dec)

The Introductory Word: Why the House is not built

- **Haggai 1:1** In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, *the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai* to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: ² This is *what the LORD Almighty says*: "**These people say, 'The time has not yet come** to rebuild the LORD's house. '" (Hag 1:1-2 NIV)

The First Confronting Word (1:3-15)

1. The **Problem** (Vv 3-6)

- ³ Then the *word of the LORD* came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ **"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"**
- ⁵ Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: **"Give careful thought to your ways.** ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, **only to put them in a purse with holes** in it." (Hag 1:3-6 NIV)

The First Confronting Word (1:3-15)

2. The **Solution** (v. 7-8)

- ⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says: "**Give careful thought to your ways.**"
- ⁸ Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and **build my house**, so that **I may take pleasure in it and be honored,**" says the LORD. (Hag 1:7-8 NIV)

The First Confronting Word (1:3-15)

3. The **Explanation** (Vv 9-11)

- ⁹ "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. **"Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.**
- ¹⁰ Therefore, **because of you** the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops.
- ¹¹ **I called for a drought** on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

The First Confronting Word (1:3-15)

4. The **Response** (V 12-13)

- ¹² Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people **obeyed the voice of the LORD** their God **and the message of the prophet Haggai**, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.
- ¹³ Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave **this message** of the LORD to the people: "**I am with you,**" declares the LORD. (Hag 1:13 NIV)

The First Confronting Word (1:3-15)

5. The **Motivation** (Vv 14-15)

- ¹⁴ So **the LORD stirred up the spirit** of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They **came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God,**
- ¹⁵ on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month (Sept 520). In the second year of King Darius, (Hag 1:14-15 NIV)

The Challenge of Haggai 1

Give careful thought to your ways!

- **Setting our Priorities (Five Steps)**

- 1. Acknowledge the problem.
- 2. Accept God's solution.
- 3. Agree with God's explanation.
- 4. Begin the work.
- 5. Keep in step with God
 - Obey God's Word
 - Open up to God's Spirit.

The Encouragement

- ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1Co 15:58 NIV)