

# Little is Much When God is in It

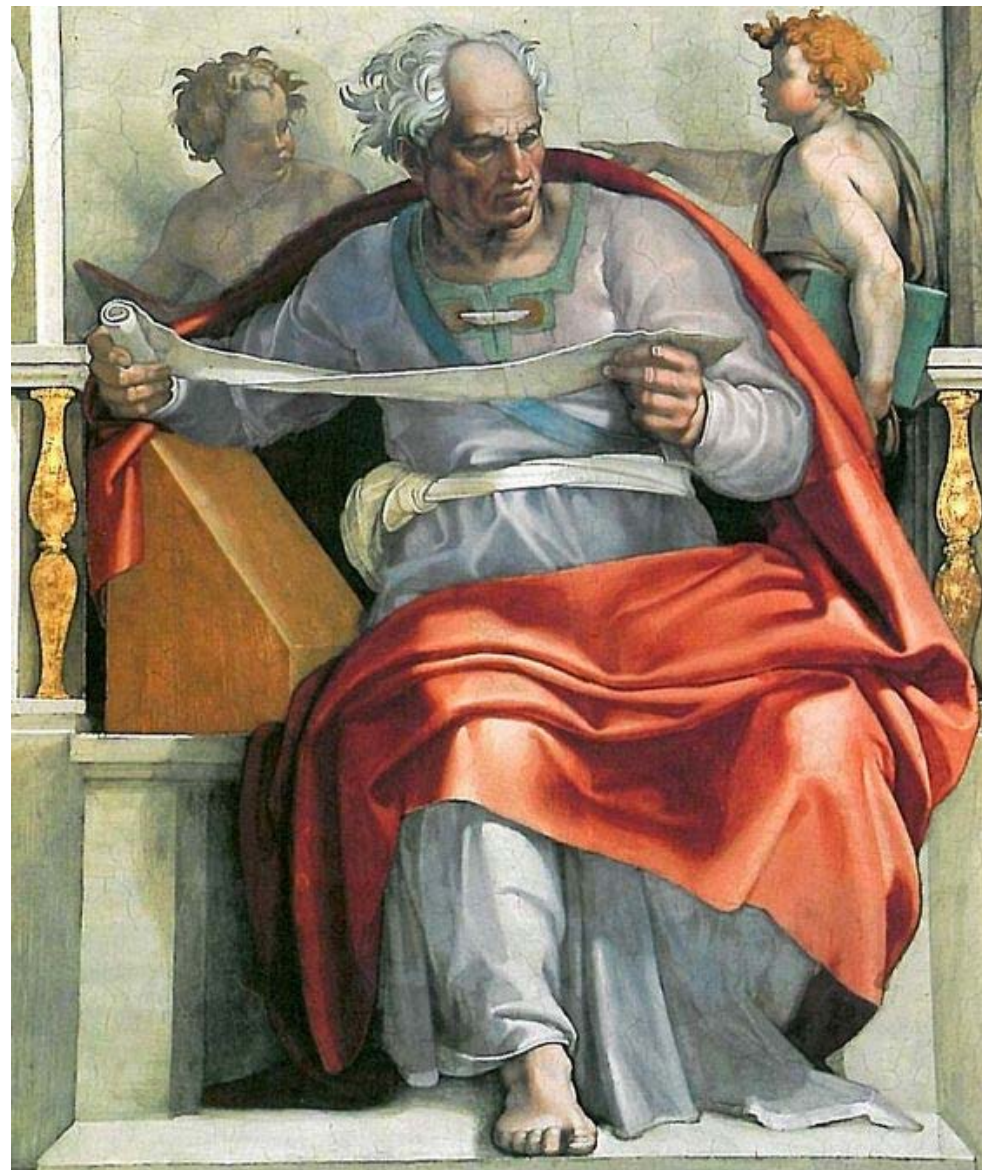
## Haggai 2

- <sup>9</sup> 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace, ' declares the LORD Almighty.'" (Hag 2:9 NIV)

# Haggai and God's New Order Building God's House

**Seek first the Kingdom of God...**

# Haggai the Prophet



# Haggai the Man

- Ezra 5:1-2, 13-15' With Zechariah (Ez 4:24; 520 B.C.)
  - Challenged Jews to get back to work
  - Worked with Zerubbabel (political leader) and Joshua (religious leader)
  - Included the 'remnant of the people'
  - Joined in the building alongside the people
- Haggai the Prophet: 'the Word of the LORD came through Haggai the Prophet'. (1:1, 3; 2:1, 10, 20)

# The Larger Theological Context

## Exilic and Post-exilic Israel

- Babylonian Exile: the Old Order was gone
  - The temple of Solomon (Presence of Yahweh)
  - The Priesthood (Access to Yahweh)
  - The Prophets (Revelation from Yahweh)
  - The King (Rule of Yahweh)
  
- After the Exile: A New Order was promised (Jer 29, 31:31ff, etc)
  - A new Temple (Presence of Yahweh)
  - A re-newed Priesthood (Access to Yahweh)
  - A fresh outbreak of Prophecy (Revelation from Yahweh)
  - A restored Davidic kingship (Rule of Yahweh)

# The Timeline for Haggai

- 587/6 Jerusalem (Old Order) Destroyed
- Jeremiah's letter; Jer 29 (before destruction).
  - Seventy years: a long wait
  - A Promise of a New Order (Covenant) to come. Jer 31
- 539 Return under Zerubbabel. Ezra 1-2
  - 537 Temple foundation. Ezra 3
    - Good beginning. Ezra 3
    - Opposition and abandonment. Ezra 4:24

# The Timeline (continued)

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

# Haggai the Book

## God's Word: confronting the status quo

- 1:1-2. An introductory word and four 'word(s) of the LORD' 1:2. Introduction 'This is what Yahweh of Armies says....'
- 1:3-15. (Aug 520). Challenge to Re-build
  - 1:3-11. Rebuke
  - 1:12-15 Encouragement
- 2:1-9 (Oct). **God's Presence: confidence overcoming fear**
- 2:10-19 (Dec). **God's Holiness: blessing overcoming the curse**
- 2:20-23 (Dec). **God's Rule: righteousness overcoming evil**



# God's Presence: a new Social Order Confidence Overcoming Fear (2:1-9) The Outward Appearance

- V. 1 On the twenty-first day of the seventh month (Oct 520), the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai:
- <sup>2</sup> "Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jozadak,<sup>1</sup> the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, <sup>3</sup> **'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?'** (Hag 2:1-3)
- Ezra 3:12 'Older exiles wept....'

# God's Presence: a New Social Order Confidence Overcoming Fear (2:1-9) The Present Encouragement

- <sup>4</sup> **But now be strong**, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD. **'Be strong**, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. **Be strong**, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD, **'and work. For I am with you,'** declares the LORD Almighty.
- <sup>5</sup> 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And **my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'** (Hag 2:4-5 NIV)

# God's Presence: a New Social Order

## Confidence Overcoming Fear (2:1-9)

### The Future Reality

- <sup>6</sup> "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while **I will once more shake the heavens and the earth**, the sea and the dry land. <sup>7</sup> I will shake all nations, and **what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory**, ' says the LORD Almighty.
- <sup>8</sup> 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty.
- <sup>9</sup> '**The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house**,' says the LORD Almighty. '**And in this place I will grant peace**, ' declares the LORD Almighty.'" (Hag 2:6-9 NIV)

‘My eyes have seen your salvation’  
Simeon (Luke 2:29)



‘Everyone who heard him was amazed’  
Luke 2:47



# God's Holiness: a new Ecological Order

## Blessing overcoming the Curse

### The Old Order (Leviticus 6-7)

- <sup>10</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Haggai:
- <sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD Almighty says: '**Ask the priests what the law (the Old Order) says:** <sup>12</sup> If someone carries **consecrated meat** in the fold of their garment, and that fold **touches some bread** or stew, some wine, olive oil or other food, **does it become consecrated?** '
- " The priests answered, "**No.**"
- <sup>13</sup> Then Haggai said, "**If a person defiled** by contact with a dead body **touches one of these things, does it become defiled?**" "**Yes,**" the priests replied, "it becomes defiled." (Hag 2:10-13 NIV)

God's Holiness: a New Ecological Order  
Blessing overcoming the Curse (2:10-19)  
The *Moral* Shape of the *Old* Order

- <sup>14</sup> Then Haggai said, "'**So it is** with this people and this nation in my sight,' declares the LORD. '**Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.**' (Hag 2:14 NIV)
- **Conclusion: the Old Order is irredeemably corrupt!**

# God's Holiness: a New Ecological Order Blessing overcoming the Curse (2:10-19) *Before the curse is Removed*

- <sup>15</sup> "'Now **give careful thought to this from this day on<sup>1</sup>--consider how things were** before one stone was laid on another in the LORD's temple.
- <sup>16</sup> When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty.
- <sup>17</sup> **I struck all the work of your hands** with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not return to me,' declares the LORD. (Hag 2:15-17 NIV)



# God's Holiness: a New Ecological Order Blessing overcoming the Curse (2:10-19) *After the curse is removed*

- <sup>18</sup> **'From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid. Give careful thought:**
- <sup>19</sup> Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit.  
**"From this day on I will bless you."** (Hag 2:18-19 NIV)

# God's Rule: a New Political Order

## Righteousness overcoming Evil (2:20-23)

### A Promise *to* Zerubbabel

- <sup>20</sup> The word of the LORD came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month:
- <sup>21</sup> "Tell **Zerubbabel** governor of Judah that **I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.**
- <sup>22</sup> I will **overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms.** I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother.
- (Hag 2:20-22 NIV)

God's Rule: a New Political Order  
Righteousness Overcoming Evil (2:20-23)  
A Promise *Through* Zerubbabel

- <sup>23</sup> **"On that day, ' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the LORD Almighty."** (Hag 2:23 NIV)
- <sup>24</sup> **"As surely as I live," declares the LORD, "even if you, Jehoiachin<sup>1</sup> son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I would still pull you off. (Jer 22:24 NIV)**

God's Rule: a New Political Order  
Righteousness overcoming Evil (Jer 23:5-6)  
The Promise Fulfilled: a New Kind of King

- <sup>5</sup> "The **days are coming**," declares the LORD, "when **I will raise up for David a righteous Branch**, a King who will **reign wisely and do what is just and right** in the land.
- <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is **the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior (Hebrew: 'the LORD our Righteousness)**. (Jer 23:5-6 NIV)

# Jesus Shall Reign

- Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run,  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.
- Let every creature rise and bring  
the highest honors to our King,  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

# The Encouragement 'Consider Your Ways'

- <sup>58</sup> 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)