
BOOK OVERVIEW

Haggai

Author: The prophet Haggai (means “my feast”)

Date: Between August and December 520 B.C.

Recipients: The Jews in Jerusalem, especially their governor Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest

Summary: Haggai encourages those in Jerusalem to finish rebuilding the temple.

Key verses: Haggai 1:14; 2:9

Key words: The Lord’s house (this house, mine house, etc.) (8), consider (5)

Notes:

Zerubbabel left Babylon for Jerusalem with almost 50,000 Jews in 538 B.C. (Ezra 2:64)

Haggai prophesied several years after the Jews had returned to Jerusalem from exile. They had laid the foundation of the second temple (Ezra 3:10), but they were opposed by the local inhabitants, became discouraged, and stopped their work.

Although the temple was unfinished, the Jews had built nice homes for themselves. (1:4, 9)

Because of Haggai’s notes, this is one of the most precisely dated books in the Bible.

According to Jewish tradition, Haggai was a Levite.

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