THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Name
   1. יָּֽגְּגֶּ
   2. The Festive One

B. Family - Nothing Known

C. Date
   1. Second Year of Darius Hystaspes - 520 B.C.
   2. Sixth to the Ninth Month: September – December
   3. Contemporary of Zechariah - mentioned together in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14

D. Locale – Jerusalem

E. Historical Setting
   1. A Remnant Returned from Babylon
   2. Building of Temple Begun - Ezra 3:8
   3. Foundation of Temple Complete - Ezra 3:10
   4. Stopped by Opposition for Fifteen Years - Ezra 4:24
   5. Darius Hystaspes Favored Rebuilding
   6. Haggai Moves People to Complete Temple - Ezra 5:1

F. Major Points
1. Divine Origin of the Prophetic Message - Twenty times it is Jehovah who is speaking

2. Danger of Procrastination


H. Theme - Rebuilding the Temple
II. THE FIRST MESSAGE - 1:1-15

A. Date and the Call - 1:1

1. Date
   a. *In the second year of Darius the King - 520 B.C.*
   b. *In the sixth month – Elul*
   c. *In the first day of the month - The New Moon Festival*
   d. August 29, 520 B.C.
   e. Such exact dating is unique to the post-exilic period

2. *The Word of Jehovah came by Haggai*
   a. נָאֵלָה יְהוָה אֶפְרָע - Was the Word of Jehovah by the hand of Haggai
      
      (1) Formula also used in 1:3 and 2:1
      (2) *By the hand of* - The human instrument through whom the revelation came
   b. נַבְיָה
      
      (1) *The Prophet*
      (2) Officially a prophet

3. To the Leaders
   a. *Unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel - Civil leader*
      
      (1) *The Governor of Judah*
      
      (a) Under the Medo-Persian Empire
      (b) Governor: נֶפֶל - Akkadian loan word
(2) Means “born in Babylon” or “seed of Babylon”

(3) Possibly same as Shezbazaar

b. *To Joshua - The son of Jehozadak the High Priest* - Religious leader

(1) *Son of Jehozadak*

(a) Transported to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar - I Chronicles 6:14-15

(b) Of the Zadokite line - I Chronicles 6:1-5

(2) Grandson of Seraiah: Killed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 - II Kings 25:18-21

(3) His Position: The High Priest

B. The Rebuke: *saying* - 1:2-11

1. The Sin - 1:2-6

a. The excuse - 1:2

(1) The source: *Thus speaks Jehovah of Hosts saying*

(2) *This people say*

(a) *It is not the time for us to come* - To work

(b) *The time for Jehovah’s House to be built* – Rebuilt

(3) We have not reached that stage yet when the Temple should be rebuilt

b. Jehovah’s response: *Then came the Word of Jehovah by Haggai the Prophet saying* - 1:3-4

(1) *Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your ceiled houses?*
(a) יִדְרָפ - Paneled with expensive wood

(b) Word used only in connection with building of the Temple - I Kings 6:9, 15; 7:3, 7

(c) Exception: Jehoiakim’s palace - Jeremiah 23:14

(d) May indicate that wood intended for Temple fifteen years earlier was now used for private home

(2) State of the Temple

(a) *While this house lies waste?*

(b) In ruins - בָּרָם

c. The punishment: *Now therefore thus says Jehovah of Hosts* - 1:5-6

(1) *Consider your ways* - 1:5

(a) כָּלָּה - Place heart

(b) Look back on the past fifteen years

(2) Lack of prosperity - 1:6

(a) Lack of productiveness - *Ye have sown much but bring in little*

(b) Hunger - *Ye eat but ye have not enough*

(c) Thirst - *Ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink*

(d) Lack of clothing - *Ye clothe you, but there is none warm*

(e) Lack of sufficient wages and inflation - *He that earns wages earns wages to put in a bag with holes*
(f) Punishment similar to Deuteronomy 28:38-40

2. The Remedy - 1:7-11

a. The command: *Thus said Jehovah of Hosts* - 1:7-8

(1) *Consider your ways* - 1:7

(2) Rebuild the Temple - 1:8

   (a) *Go up to the mountain*

      i) The Hill Country of Judah

      ii) *And bring wood*

   (b) *Build the House* - Finish the Temple

      i) *I will take pleasure in it*

      ii) *I will be glorified*

   (c) *Says Jehovah*

b. The punishment of the past - 1:9-11

   (1) That which the land produced was burned up - 1:9

      (a) *You looked for much* - *And lo it came to little*

      (b) *When ye brought it home* - *I did blow upon it*

      i) Fanning the fire in order to melt the dross

      ii) Result – Drought

   (c) Reason: *Why? Says Jehovah of Hosts* - The Temple laid waste while people lived in houses

      i) *Because of My House that lies waste*
ii) While ye run every man to his own house

(d) Deuteronomy 28:24

(2) Lack of rain - 1:10

(a) Therefore - For your sake the heavens withhold the dew – Summer

(b) The earth withholds its fruit - The land does not produce

(c) Fulfillment of Deuteronomy 28:23

(3) Drought - 1:11

(a) And I called for a drought – Everywhere

i) Upon the land - The cultivated area

ii) Upon the mountains - That which normally gets the most rain

iii) Upon the grain

iv) Upon the new wine

v) Upon the oil

vi) Upon that which the ground brings forth

vii) Upon men

viii) Upon cattle

ix) Upon all the labor of the hands

(b) Fulfillment of Deuteronomy 28:51

C. The Response - 1:12-15

1. Of the People - 1:12
a. The leaders

(1) *Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel*

(2) *Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the High Priest*

b. The people - *With all the remnant of the people*

(1) Not the technical meaning of the believing remnant

(2) But the remnant that chose to return

(a) Remnant - Those who came back

(b) Non-remnant - Those who did not come back

c. The act

(1) *Obeyed the Voice of Jehovah their God*

(2) *And the words of Haggai the Prophet - As Jehovah their God had sent him*

(3) *The people did fear before Jehovah* - The fear resulting from the recognition that they have suffered the wrath of God

2. Of God - 1:13-14

a. The encouragement: I am with you - 1:13

(1) *Then spake Haggai - Jehovah’s messenger*

(2) *In Jehovah’s message unto the people saying - I am with you says Jehovah*

b. The work commenced - 1:14

(1) The divine cause: *And Jehovah stirred up*

(a) *The spirit of Zerubbabel*
i) The son of Shealtiel

ii) The Governor of Judah

(b) The spirit of Joshua

i) The son of Jehozadak

ii) The High Priest

(c) The spirit of all the remnant of the people

(2) The result

(a) They came — Gathered

(b) And did work on the House of Jehovah of Hosts their God

(3) The Date - 1:15

(a) In the twenty-fourth day of the month

(b) In the sixth month - Elul

(c) In the second year of Darius the king - 520 B.C.

(d) September 21, 520 B.C.

(e) Began 23 days after Haggai’s message
III. THE SECOND MESSAGE - 2:1-9

A. Date - 2:1

1. *In the Seventh Month – Tishri*

2. *In the Twenty-First Day:*
   a. Seventh Day of the Feast of Tabernacles
   b. Leviticus 23:33-44

3. October 17, 520 B.C.

4. Three-and-a-Half Weeks Since Work was Resumed

5. Exactly 440 Years Earlier the Solomonic Temple was Dedicated
   a. I Kings 6:38
   b. I Kings 8:2

6. *Came the Word of Jehovah by Haggai the Prophet*

B. The Problem - 2:2-3

1. The Addressee: *Speak now to - 2:2*
   a. Zerubbabel
      (1) *Son of Shealtiel*
      (2) *Governor of Judah - Civil leader*
   b. Joshua
      (1) *Son of Jehozadak*
      (2) *The High Priest - Religious leader*
   c. *The remnant of the people - The common people*
2. The Discouragement - 2:3

a. Three questions that show emotions of people at that time

(1) *Who is left among you that saw this House in its former glory?*

(a) *Former – Solomonic*

(b) *Many octogenarians around - Ezra 3:8-13*

(2) *How do you see it now?*

(a) *The Second Temple*

(b) *Yet viewed as the same - All one house*

(c) *Same house - Different only in point of glory*

(3) *Is it not in your eyes as nothing?*

(a) *Some things were less than Solomonic*

(b) *Some things were missing*

b. Similar situation fifteen years earlier - Ezra 3:10-13

c. The comparison

(1) *Both had golden Altar of Incense*

(2) *Solomonic had ten Tables of Shewbread to the Second’s one*

(3) *Solomonic had ten Lampstands to the Second’s one*

(4) *Solomonic had Ark of Covenant to Second’s foundation stone*

d. Missing

(1) *Ark of the Covenant*
(2) Sacred Fire

(3) Spirit of Prophecy

(4) Shechinah Glory

(5) Urim and Thummim

C. God's Response - 2:4-9

1. God's Encouragement - 2:4-5

   a. The admonition - 2:4

      (1) Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, says Jehovah

      (2) Be strong, O Joshua

         (a) Son of Jehozadak

         (b) The High Priest

      (3) Be strong - All ye people of the land, says Jehovah

      (4) The admonition: Work - On the Temple

      (5) Reason: For I am with you, says Jehovah of Hosts

   b. The proof from the past - 2:5

      (1) The Mosaic Covenant

         (a) According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt

         (b) Exodus 19:5-6; 24:8; 29:45-46

      (2) The Holy Spirit

         (a) My Spirit abode among you

         (b) Numbers 11:17, 25; 27:18
2. God’s Promises of the Future: *For thus says Jehovah of Hosts - 2:6-9*

   a. The shaking - 2:6

      (1) *Yet once* - God intends to shake the earth one more time

      (2) *It is a little while* - It is still future

      (3) *I will shake the heavens and the earth, and the sea and the dry land*

         (a) In preparation for the Kingdom

         (b) Word רעש from רעש is used for upheaval of nations in last days - Isaiah 13:13; 14:16

   b. The filling of God’s House - 2:7-8

      (1) The precious things of all nations - 2:7

         (a) *I will shake all nations*

         (b) *The precious things of all nations shall come*

            i) כִּלֶּלְהֵנֶת הָעָמִים

               a) The choice things of the nations

               b) The Gentiles will beautify the Temple with their choice things

            ii) Isaiah 60:5-7

      (c) *I will fill this house with glory* - *Says Jehovah of Hosts*

         i) The glory of the wealth of the Gentiles
ii) The Shechinah Glory

(2) God will supply the beauty - 2:8

(a) Do not be disturbed by poor metals

i) The silver is Mine

ii) The gold is Mine

iii) Says Jehovah of Hosts

(b) Will beautify by supplying funds

(c) Will beautify it by His Son - The Shechinah Glory

c. The latter glory - 2:9

(1) The latter glory of this House shall be greater than the former - Says Jehovah of Hosts - the visible presence of God

(a) Former glory - Shechinah of Solomonic

(b) Latter glory - Jesus the Messiah

(2) In this place will I give peace - Says Jehovah of Hosts

(a) I will give peace - Sar Shalom

(b) First Coming - Spiritual peace

(c) Second Coming - Physical peace

3. Other References

a. Isaiah 60:4-14

b. Ezekiel 44:4

c. Zechariah 2:5
d. Zechariah 14:9-15
IV. THE THIRD MESSAGE - 2:10-19

A. Date - 2:10

1. *In the Twenty-Fourth Day*

2. *In the Ninth Month – Chislev*

3. *In the Second Year of Darius - 520 B.C.*

4. December 18, 520 B.C.
   a. Two months after the second message
   b. Three months since reconstruction began
   c. After the fall harvest – Poor

5. *Came the Word of Jehovah by Haggai the Prophet Saying*

B. The Lesson of the *Torah* - 2:11-13

1. The Question of the Law - 2:11
   a. *Thus said Jehovah of Hosts*
   b. *Ask now the priests concerning the Law – Saying*

2. First Question: Holiness is Not Contagious - 2:12
   a. If a man carries holy flesh (sacrifice) in his robe and the robe touches something else - Will it be holy?

   (1) *If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment*

   (2) *And with his skirt do touch*

   (a) *Bread*

   (b) *or Pottage*

   (c) *or Wine*
(d) or Oil

(e) or Any food

(3) Shall it become holy?

b. Answer: NO - Leviticus 6:27

(1) And the priests answered and said: No

(2) Holiness is not transmitted from person to person or from thing to thing

3. Second Question: Defilement is Contagious - 2:13

a. Then said Haggai: If a man becomes unclean by touching a corpse, and then touches another object, would it be unclean?

(1) If one that is unclean by reason of a dead body touch any of these

(2) Still is be unclean?

b. Answer: YES - And the priests answered and said:

(1) It shall be unclean

(a) Leviticus 7:19; 11:28; 21:1, 11; 22:4-6

(b) Numbers 6:6-8; 19:11-13, 22

(2) Sin is contagious

C. The Application to the Nation: Then answered Haggai and said - 2:14

1. So is this people (ֱָּּ) and so is this nation (ְֶּּ) before Me says Jehovah

a. ֱָּּ - They Are the people of God

b. ְֶּּ - They Act like the Gentiles
2. So is every work of their hands - That which they offer there is unclean
   a. Israel was set aside for God and hence holy - Exodus 19:6
   b. Nation has been defiled by not completing the Temple and so transmitted its uncleanness and the offering was also unclean
   c. Transmitted lack of obedience to the work of their hands

D. The Evidence - 2:15-19a

1. No Blessings From the Foundation to the Resumption of Work – 2:15-17
   a. Consider your ways - 2:15
      (1) Now I pray you: Consider from this day and backward - The past from this very day
      (2) Before a stone was laid upon a stone in the Temple of Jehovah - From the time before the resumption of the work
   b. The land did not produce what was expected - 2:16
      (1) Through all that time - The fifteen years
      (2) When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten
      (3) When one came to the winevat to draw out fifty vessels, there were but twenty
   c. What it did produce was destroyed - 2:17
      (1) I smote you with
         (a) Blasting
         (b) Mildew
(c) With hail

(2) In all the works of your hands

(3) The problem: Yet you turned not to Me - Says Jehovah

2. No Blessings Since the Resumption of the Work - 2:18-19a

a. Consider your ways - 2:18

(1) Consider, I pray you, from this day backward - Again think of the past

(2) From the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month - This very day

(3) Since the day that the foundation of Jehovah's Temple was laid - Consider it

b. Still no blessings at the end of present harvest - 2:19a

(1) Is the seed yet in the barn? - No!

(2) Things have not yet brought forth

   (a) The vine

   (b) The fig tree

   (c) The pomegranate

   (d) The olive tree

(3) Shows defilement still in effect

(4) Point of illustration

E. The Reversal - 2:19b

1. From this day I will bless you

2. Only after three months will blessings be restored
a. The people's heart has been proved and tested
b. They are still at work in spite of poor harvest
V. THE FOURTH MESSAGE - 2:20-23

A. Date - 2:20

1. *The Word of Jehovah came the second time unto Haggai saying* - Second time on that day

2. *The Twenty-Fourth Day of the Month*

3. Same Day as the Third Message

B. The Shaking of the Nations - 2:21-22

1. The Special Message to Zerubbabel - 2:21a

   a. *Speak to Zerubbabel saying*

   b. *The Governor of Judah*

   c. Joshua excluded

2. The Shaking - 2:21b

   a. *I will shake the heavens and the earth*

   b. Same as in 2:6

   c. Refers to the shaking of nations in preparation for Kingdom

3. The Fall of the Antichrist and His Armies - 2:22

   a. *I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms* - Overthrow: Like Sodom and Gomorrah

      (1) *Throne* – Singular

      (2) *Kingdoms* – Plural

   b. *I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations*

   c. *I will overthrow the chariots and those that ride in them*
d.  And the horses and their riders shall come down

e.  Every one by the sword of his brother

f.  The Campaign of Armageddon

C.  Zerubbabel’s Place in the Kingdom - 2:23

1.  The Timing:  In That Day - Says Jehovah of Hosts

   a.  The prophetic future

   b.  Following the shaking

2.  I Will Take You, O Zerubbabel - Says Jehovah

   a.  My servant

      (1)  First time this title used of him

      (2)  Up until now it was:  The Governor of Judah

   b.  The son of Shealtiel

3.  I Will Make You as a Signet

   a.  Chosen signet ring from which one did not depart

   b.  One of the princes in the Kingdom

      (1)  Isaiah 32:1

      (2)  Ezekiel 45:8

4.  The Reason:  For I have chosen you - Says Jehovah of Hosts