



Minor Prophets

Lesson 20

Haggai Chapters 1-2

The people of both Israel and Judah have been ravaged and exiled into foreign lands. The Babylonians, who captured Judah in 597 B.C., were conquered by Persia in 539 B.C.. Cyrus, the new leader of Persia, then gave the Jews permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their Temple and their homeland. Many Jews had assimilated into the Babylonian culture; therefore, due to the arduous journey and the daunting task of rebuilding, they chose not to return (Ezra 2).

Under the leadership of their governor Zerubbabel, the Jews who did return immediately began work on restoring the Temple in Jerusalem. Within a year they were able to lay the foundations at the Temple site. But, due to the opposition from people in the

surrounding area, a decree was sent from Assyria for the work to cease (Ezra 3-4).

When there had been no work on the Temple site for 13 years, Zerubbabel, along with the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, rose up to spur the people on to continue their work (Ezra 5). God's house had been neglected while the people of Jerusalem had focused on building their own homes. Once again, those who wanted to stop the building appealed to Assyria. This time the original decree given by Cyrus was found, and an additional decree was given by King Darius that not only gave the Jews permission to resume building, but it ordered the people in the surrounding area to contribute financially to the work (Ezra 6). In 515 B.C. the Temple was finished.

READ HAGGAI CHAPTER 1 (The book of Ezra coincides with Haggai and Zechariah)

1. *What is the date of Haggai's first proclamation, and to whom was he speaking?*

2. *Identify the following people:*

Darius

Haggai

Zerubbabel

Joshua



Governor Zerubbabel was born in exile but was the “son of Shealtiel” and therefore, the grandson of Jehoiachin the last reigning ruler of Judah before the captivity. He is listed in both Matthew and Luke’s genealogy as a direct descendant of King David.

3. *What is God’s complaint about the people’s attitude toward building His house? Verses 2-4*

4. *What warning does He give them in verses 5 & 7, and how does He describe their present condition in verse 6?*

5. *In verse 8, what instruction does God give them?*

6. *Describe the natural disasters that were happening in response to their disobedience. 1:9-11*

7. *What comparisons can you make between these events and the instruction that Christ gives in Matthew 6:33?*

8. *What was the result of Haggai’s first proclamation, and what was the date that took place? Verses 12-15*

READ HAGGAI CHAPTER 2

9. *What is the date of Haggai’s second proclamation from the Lord, and to whom is he speaking? 2:1-2*

10. *What 3 questions does God ask them, and what does that seem to imply? 2:3*

11. *What promises does God give to encourage them? 2:4-9*

12. *What is the date of Haggai's third proclamation from the Lord, and who is he speaking to now?
2:10-11*

13. *Describe the ruling God asked the priests to make in 2:12-13. What do you think was the point being made by Lord? 2:14-19*

14. *What was the date of Haggai's 4th proclamation from the Lord, and to whom was he speaking?
2:20*

15. *What promise does God make to Zerubbabel? 2:21-23*



A signet ring was much like an ancient identity card because it bore the distinctive mark that uniquely identified the one it belonged to. It was used to impress its owner's signature on seals and documents of great importance. Thus, if the bearer of the seal was someone other than the owner, it would imply a very close personal connection. The bearer would carry the authority and power of the owner.

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
