

## THE BOOKS OF HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH AND MALACHI

These three were known as the "Post-captivity" prophets, and they were God's messengers during the period of restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple. Haggai and Zechariah were appealing and trying to inspire the Jews to finish building the Temple. The message of Malachi was the tragic sin and apostasy of God's people. The spiritual revival of the return to the Holy City had turned to spiritual coldness. The last word of the Old Testament is "curse".

### HAGGAI

Not long after the Jewish "remnant" returned to Jerusalem and Judea, they began to neglect the things of the Lord. For fourteen years they had focused on building their own houses, and had forsaken the rebuilding of the Temple. Into the people's backslidden condition, God sent His message through Haggai. He was among the first group to go to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2). He was probably born in Babylon during the captivity.

#### The Central Message

"Consider your ways.....Build the house" (1:7-8).

#### The Structure of the Book:

##### FIRST SERMON - Reproof - Chapter 1

Haggai's first sermon is to reprove the people for their neglect in building the Lord's House. They were postponing what they had gone to Jerusalem to accomplish. They had become satisfied to sit in their houses and "wait" until the time came and they "felt" like doing it. This speaks to us today; we would rather wait than work.

##### SECOND SERMON - Encouragement - Chapter 2:1-9

Haggai declares Three Facts:

1. Jehovah's covenant with Israel and His faithfulness to it (2:5).
2. The Spirit of God remains with them and they should have no fear (2:5).
3. God says there shall be a great shaking of nations (tribulation) and that one who is the Desire (Christ) of all nations shall come. The glory of this latter House shall be greater than the former (2:6-9).

These are things that should inspire us as well: a covenant, the Spirit's presence, and the promised return of the Lord.

##### THIRD SERMON - Blessing - Chapter 2:10-19

The people were to ask the priests concerning things of the law of Moses (2:11). The "holy" cannot make the "unholy" holy by contact, but unholiness is communicated by contact (2:12-13). Haggai makes this application to the Jews: Though they had returned to the land and rebuilt the Temple, their hearts were far from God (2:14). God judged them because their hearts were not changed toward Him (2:15-17). Then God says, "consider". God would bless them now because they had obeyed. He would bless because of His GRACE.

##### FOURTH SERMON - Promise - Chapter 2:20-23

The message is directed to Zerubbabel, Governor of Judah. It speaks of the final purpose of God. Gentile power will come to an end. "In that day" the Lord will make Zerubbabel a "signet" (a sign of authority, a guarantee of the greater David). Zerubbabel was honored by a place in both genealogies of Christ (Matthew 1:12-17; Luke 3:27). From the moment of obedience, God blesses each of us. Are you building a spiritual house of the Lord and His church?

### ZECHARIAH

Zechariah was a contemporary with Haggai (Ezra 5:1; Haggai 1:1 and Zechariah 1:1). Zechariah was both a priest and a prophet. As you read his lineage you understand that he was of the family of Aaron. From the time of Zechariah

and Haggai, the priesthood takes the lead in the nation. The history of God's chosen people falls into three main periods:

From Moses to Samuel - Israel under Judges

From Saul to Zedekiah - Israel under Kings

From Jeshua to A.D. 70 - Israel under Priests

### **The Prophecies**

There are more prophecies of Christ in Zechariah than in any other prophetic Book except Isaiah. Please compare these prophecies and fulfillments.

SERVANT	ZECARIAH 3:8	MATTHEW 12:18
BRANCH	3:8, 6:12	LUKE 1:78
KING-PRIEST	6:13	HEBREWS 6:20-7:1
LOWLY KING	9:9-10	MATTHEW 21:4-5
BETRAYED	11:12-13	MATTHEW 27:9
HANDS PIERCED	12:10	JOHN 19:37
SMITTEN SHEPHERD	13:7-9	MATTHEW 26:31
SECOND COMING	14:4, 9	WAITING TO BE FULFILLED

**The Central Truth** "I am jealous for Jerusalem" 1:14; 8:2

### **The Structure of the Book**

- The Night Visions - Chapters 1-6
- Four Messages - Chapters 7 and 8
- The Prophetic Burdens - Chapters 9-14

### **The Night Visions**

This is only a brief look at each vision and meaning.

1. THE RIDER ON THE RED HORSE - 1:8-17  
God is jealous for Jerusalem and judgement is to fall upon the nations for the abuse of His covenant people.
  2. THE FOUR HORNS - 1:18  
The Four Horns are the four nations that had scattered Israel: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
  3. THE FOUR CARPENTERS - 1:20-21  
These are the instruments of judgement upon the four nations (above).
  4. THE MAN WITH THE MEASURING LINE - 2:1-13  
Jerusalem is not to be measured as man would measure, but the Lord Himself shall be a wall around the glorious city.
  5. JOSHUA THE HIGH PRIEST - 3:1-10  
This vision pictures the removing of iniquity and the future glory for Israel. Filthy garments replaced with clean clothes and a mitre placed on the head.
  6. THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK AND THE TWO OLIVE TREES - 4:1-14  
God shall rebuild His Temple and the people will witness His power (4:6).
  7. THE FLYING SCROLL - 5:1-4  
When God builds His Temple, His Word goes forth to judge. The Scroll is the Word of God.
  8. THE EPHAH - 5:5-11  
The ephah is a measuring container and a symbol of trade. All corruption and sin against God represented by Babylon. Read Revelation 17 and 18.
  9. THE FOUR CHARIOTS - 6:1-8  
This is a picture of God's judgements upon the nations.
  10. THE SYMBOLIC CROWNING OF JOSHUA - 6:9-15  
This is a vision of the second coming of Christ.
- The unifying idea of all these visions goes back to the Central Truth 1:14-16.

**The Four Messages - Chapters 7 and 8**

Found in 7:1-7; 7:8-14; 8:1-7 and 8:18-23, these four messages support the Central Message of Zechariah. God's purpose for Jerusalem is unchanged by any ritual or form. He is "jealous" for His people. These messages teach that worship is a matter of the heart.

**The Prophetic Burdens - Chapters 9-14**

1. The FIRST burden is in Chapters 9-11. We see the first coming of Jesus in 9:9 and the second coming in 9:10-17. Chapter 10 is a picture of the people scattered and finally restored to their land. Chapter 11 depicts the first coming of Christ and the rejection of Him as Messiah. Compare 11:13 with **Matthew 27:9**.
2. The SECOND burden is in Chapters 12-14. These Chapters form one prophecy. The theme is the return of Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth. This carries us through the Siege of Jerusalem to the "cleansing fountain" opened to Israel. Note 14:4.

In Chapters 9-14 the first and second advents are spoken of with no reference to the age of the Church. God will again take up and complete His grand purposes with, for, and through Israel.

**MALACHI**

Malachi is the "bridge" between the Old and New Testaments (3:1). Malachi means "my messenger". He prophesied after the days of Nehemiah and the condition of the Jews had become deplorable. There are four hundred years of silence between the voice of Malachi and the "voice of one crying in the wilderness" (John 1:23).

**The Central Message - "Behold, He shall come" 3:1 last line.**

**The Love of God Stated - 1:1-5**

God says, "I have loved you", but on every hand the irritated Israelites asked questions of God claiming He had failed to prove His love.

1. Wherein hast thou loved us? 1:2
2. Wherein have we despised thy name? 1:6
3. Wherein have we polluted thee? 1:7
4. Wherein have we wearied Him? 2:17
5. Wherein shall we return? 3:7
6. Wherein have we robbed thee? 3:8
7. Wherein have we spoken against thee? 3:13

**The Love of God Scorned 1:6-2:17; 3:7-15**

The prophets and the people had scorned God by offering lame and sick offerings. They gave less than the best (1:12-13). The love of God was scorned by the people; by cheating their brother 2:10, intermarriage 2:11, immorality 2:14, insincerity 2:17, robbing God 3:8-10, speaking against the Lord 3:13-15.

**The Love of God Shown - 3:1-6; 3:16-4:6**

1. By sending His Son - 3:1-6. Compare 3:1 to **Matthew 11:10**. His second coming will be introduced by Elijah the prophet, 4:5-6. Read **Luke 1:11-17; Matthew 11:10-14; John 1:21**.

2. By remembering His own - 3:16-17. How precious to God are His own? A "Book of Remembrance" is written containing the "jewels" of the Lord. The Old Testament closes with "He is coming". See 4:2. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

FOR NEXT WEEK

IF YOUR BIBLE HAS INFORMATION ABOUT THE 400 SILENT YEARS,  
READ THIS INFORMATION IN DETAIL.