

Haggai: A Greater Way

Week 1 (March 1) – Haggai 1:1 – God’s Great Word Comes to His People – God’s Great Word is Spoken - God’s Word spoken and preserved for His people to know God, be changed, do His work, Glorify God

- Thank you for speaking, collecting, and preserving Your word for Your people. We receive it, cherish it, and submit to its work in us and through us.
- Jesus: Jesus spoke the word to the prophet for the leaders. Jesus spoke this word for His people. We receive His word, consider it precious, effective, and powerful by faith through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Word from God!

Call to Worship

Read Haggai 1:1 ESV (Stand for the Reading)

1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

Prayer

Our Great God and Loving Father, You spoke your word to Haggai over 2500 years ago. Your Word endured war, destruction, manipulation, and theft. You spoke it, kept it, and gave it to us to read today. Thank you! We ask for the Holy Spirit to use your word to reveal our ways, light our path to walk with you, and empower us to live obediently. Grow us in loving Your word and shape us to become more like Christ today.

Sermon

Series Graphic (Slide 1)

Opening Idea

We read in Psalm 15 that God had made a covenant with Israel. That covenant was contained in an ark. The ark was the physical evidence of the presence of God. God brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and resided in a tent in the city of David. God commissioned Solomon to build a temple to house the ark. This is the first temple. This temple was destroyed and the ark was captured. God has commissioned to build a second temple while His people are in captivity. The people are given permission from the occupying king to return to Jerusalem and build God’s temple. They return, but neglect to build the temple, becoming focused on building their own houses. God has determined that the neglect and disobedience is over and He speaks to the leadership, Zerubbabel and Joshua, through His prophet Haggai. It is time to build God’s Temple.

Let's begin a five-week study of the book of Haggai and use God's good word to grow in living by faith and living obediently to live in the joy and peace that comes from when God's Way is greater than our ways.

Read

Haggai 1:1 ESV (Slide 2)

1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:

Series Graphic (Slide 3)

Notes on Haggai 1:1

God Continues His Building Commission (Context and 1a)

God had disciplined the nation of Judah for disobedience and failure to live according to the covenant he established with David. Judah's disobedience led to God sending the Babylonian army led by [King Nebuchadnezzar II](#). The first temple was commissioned by God to Solomon. This moved the Ark of the Covenant from a nomadic dwelling tent to a permanent residence. The first temple was built by Solomon around 960BC – 957BC. This temple was destroyed around 587BC/586BC during [King Nebuchadnezzar II](#)'s conquer and occupation of Judah. Babylon captured selected people to take back to Babylon and be trained in the Babylonian ways of education, art, government, and religion. Further stories of that exilic period to give insight into the book of Haggai can be found in the books of Daniel, Ezra, Ezekiel, and Zachariah.

Haggai 1:1 begins with the people living in Judah and Jerusalem. They have been released by King Darius to return to Judah and Jerusalem. God's people have been commissioned to rebuild the temple that was destroyed by the Babylonians. The people have built their houses but have not done what God has commanded. They have not built the temple. God is reminding the people that their ways and desires do not align with God.

This word from God is affirmed to be true and useful to teach, correct, and rebuke. This word is good to bring God's people back into alignment with Him. It is written that the Word of the Lord was given in a specific period. This is denoted by the ruling figure that is over the area of Judah, King Darius. The word was given early in Darius' reign. God speaks to King Cyrus to have the Judeans build the temple in Jerusalem. He decrees it and Darius, a successor, will empower and send God's people to build the temple. This takes place in the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month. This is part of what makes this book an accurate and reliable historical account of God revealing Himself and His will to His people.

God Speaks through His Prophet (1b)

The opening verse of this book also reads that God sent word to His people through a particular person. The second part of verse one reads, “the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet.” This reveals that Haggai was an approved and recognized prophet in his day. This would likely not to have been the only word that God spoke through Haggai. The Judean leaders would have known that Haggai was a prophet of God and would have trusted prophecies that God spoke through Haggai. This isn’t Haggai’s words, writings, or wisdom. It is written that God’s word came through Haggai. Haggai wrote it, but it was God inspiring the words, writings, and wisdom. This is a second part of what makes this book an accurate and reliable historical account of God revealing Himself and His will to His people.

God Mobilizes His Servants to Mobilize His People (1c)

The third part of Haggai 1:1 reads that this word came through Haggai “Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.” There is not a king of Judah during this occupation and exilic period. There is an appointed high priest during this time. The leadership structure appointed by God and implemented by King Darius was in place. God speaks to Zerubbabel and Joshua, and they will reveal God’s words and will to the people while also mobilizing them to accomplish what God has commanded. Zerubbabel is a legitimate leader from the line of David. Joshua is a legitimate high priest from the line of Levi. God has faithfully kept His word, and the situation is set for God’s people to respond and carry out the commission to build the second temple. This is the final part of what makes this book an accurate and reliable historical account of God revealing Himself and His will to His people.

- **We can trust that what we will study and use to grow in living by faith is given by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.**

God’s Word is Trustworthy and Effective – A Precious Gift to His People (Slide 4)

Proven and Affirmed as Trustworthy and Useful (Slide 5)

Dates and Context

Reign of King Darius – 2nd year, 6th month, 1st day of the month

Real and proven word given

Proven Prophet

Haggai is known and trusted by Zerubbabel and Joshua

We can trust this word given by God through Haggai

Established Leaders

Zerubbabel was legitimate leader from the line of David

Joshua was legitimate servant from the line of Levi

We will be shaped and changed by God's word given

God Gave His People His Word (Slide 6)

Reveals His Will and Desire

We desire to do God's Will, have His desires, and value His work

Includes People in His Work

God includes us in His continuing work

We are called and empowered to do God's work

We join in His work

God, use Your Word to Empower us to Glorify You! (Slide 7)

By Faith we receive and obey God's word! (Slide 8)

Series Graphic (Slide 9)