

HAGGAI

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

37

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

2

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

One of the few books written after the return from the Great Exile in Babylon, Haggai wrote to encourage the people of Judah to rebuild the Temple. He wanted them to stop focusing on their own misfortune and to remember that devotion to God brings true rewards.



WRITTEN
526 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
526 BC



AUTHOR
Haggai the Prophet

1

HAGGAI ENCOURAGES
THE PEOPLE TO
REBUILD THE TEMPLE

HAGGAI 1

Haggai tells the people that they have procrastinated rebuilding the Temple, which is why they are not flourishing. The people are fixated instead on rebuilding their own houses and, as a result, they have forgotten about unity, love for God, and for each other. As a result of Haggai's preaching, the people heed the call to rebuild the Temple.

2

THREE MORE PROPHECIES

HAGGAI 2

Haggai shares three prophecies. First: God will "shake up the earth and restore peace." Second: God will bless His people even though they have been defiled by unclean people and customs. Third: God will use Zerubbabel as His chosen leader.

HAGGAI

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

The Book of Haggai

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Haggai is the 10th of 12 Minor Prophets)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

526 BC



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Haggai is considered one of the only prophets to whom the people actually listened. Haggai wrote to the remnant of the tribe of Judah, which returned to rebuild Jerusalem after the Babylonian invasion and Great Exile. Those who had returned in hope 15 years earlier were now facing dire struggles. They lacked basic essentials like clothing and food and had been mocked by other nations, who thought rebuilding their temple was foolhardy. The mocking had drained them of faith, so they had turned to each building individual homes and looking out for themselves rather than for each other. They were not becoming a godly community.

Haggai served as God's mouthpiece to tell the people to rebuild the Temple first. Such would keep them from falling back into errors that had caused the Great Exile. Haggai's prophesy is brief—only two chapters in our Bible. It fixates specifically on getting the returnees to build the Temple as top priority. Haggai's encouragement in priorities would bring unity, faith, and strength back to them. The people actually listened.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Haggai wrote to Jews who had been living in Babylon and had returned to Jerusalem after 70 years of exile. So many of the people were the children of those exiled, had never been in Jerusalem before, and it was like a foreign land to them.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

As well, the people had never lived under Jewish practices, and even the law was no longer familiar to them. Haggai's encouragement about making the Temple a priority turned their hardships into grace on many levels.

ZECHARIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

38

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

14

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

Zechariah prophesies after the return from the Great Exile. The scope of his prophecies covers a wide range of topics and timelines, as he often speaks of Old Testament events and the First and Second Coming of Christ in the same passage. There is a lull of decades between his two sets of prophecies.



WRITTEN
520-484 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
520 BC-End of Days



AUTHOR
The Prophet
Zechariah

1

ZECHARIAH'S EARLY PROPHECIES

ZECHARIAH 1-8

Zechariah's ministry begins with calling on Judah to repent. He then receives eight metaphoric visions in one night, from horns to horses and flying scrolls. He warns the people to repent and prepare for the Messiah.

2

ZECHARIAH'S LATER PROPHECIES

ZECHARIAH 9-14

Zechariah sees the Coming of the Lord. He sees that the Messiah will be rejected by the Jews, and specifically mentions Palm Sunday. He sees the Second Coming of the Lord and the final victory for Israel with the Messiah.

ZECHARIAH

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

The Book of Zechariah

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Minor Prophecy (Zechariah is the 11th of 12 Minor Prophets)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

520 BC



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Zechariah wrote during the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem after the Great Exile. When he completed his prophecies, the Temple was only four years from completion.

Zechariah could be called “the big picture” prophet. His prophecies are expansive, covering the coming of Christ as well as the end of time and things relative to the rebuilding. It’s like God used this prophet to show how everything bad that had happened had meaning in the pending future. Some scholars say the Bible, while having many writers over a 2,000-year period of writing, is really one story—God’s story of his relationship with mankind. Zechariah does more than most prophets to show the big picture of the story God is trying to tell.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Like Haggai, Zechariah wrote to a people returning to their homeland, but for whom it was a strange land after they’d spent 70 years exiled in Babylon. Zechariah’s first eight chapters were written in Judah to the builders of the Second Temple and the returnees from the exile. But while Haggai’s messages were full of caution, Zechariah’s are full of hope and encouragement.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Chapters 9-14 are thought to have been given much later in Zechariah’s life. They refer mostly to the coming of the Messiah, both his life and death and his future return.