

THE MINISTRY OF HAGGAI
INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW
(Haggai 1:1; cf. Ezra 5:1)

- I. The HISTORICAL Context
 - A. A REMNANT returned to Jerusalem from Babylon in 537 BC
 - B. The SACRIFICES and FEASTS have been reinstated
 - C. The FOUNDATION for the new Temple was laid in 536 BC
 - D. It is now 520 BC, and NO FURTHER WORK has been completed
 - E. God COMMISSIONED the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to preach to the Jews in JUDAH and JERUSALEM (Ezra 5:1)

- II. Haggai's ASSIGNMENT
 - A. He is called "the MESSENGER of the LORD" who "spoke by the COMMISSION of the LORD" (1:13)
 - 1. The divine SOURCE of his message is EMPHASIZED
 - 2. The divine AUTHORITY of his message is RECOGNIZED
 - B. He was sent to address the DELAY in rebuilding the TEMPLE
 - 1. External OPPOSITION had HINDERED the work
 - 2. Misplaced PRIORITIES had STOPPED the work

- C. He preached SHORT and POINTED messages within a CHRONOLOGICAL framework
1. His preaching is structured around SIX specific DATES (1:1, 15; 2:1, 10, 18, 20)
 2. The dates span a FOUR MONTH period in 520 BC
 3. The dates show the PROGRESSION of Haggai's ARGUMENT
 - a. REBUKE and RESPONSE concerning the Temple construction (1:1-15)
 - b. ENCOURAGEMENT to persevere in the Temple construction (2:1-9)
 - c. Effects of either DISOBEDIENCE or OBEDIENCE (2:10-19)
 - d. Promise of a certain FUTURE in the ULTIMATE Kingdom (2:20-23)
- D. His ministry was BRIEF
1. Some suggest he RETIRED or DIED
 2. Perhaps "he preached himself OUT OF A JOB"
- E. The underlying message is the PRIORITY of putting GOD FIRST