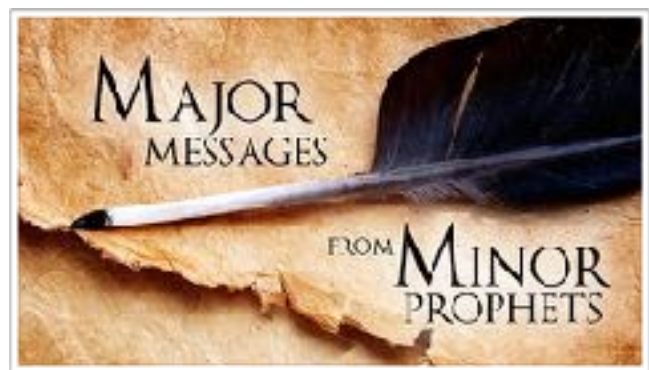


---



---

Much happens from the time of Habakkuk to the time of Haggai. By the end of Habakkuk's time, some deportations of the Jews to Babylon had already begun. In 605 BC, the first exiles are taken, mostly prominent members of society—the elite and educated—which might be of service to the empire, thus it was at this time that Daniel and other members of Judah's upper class were taken into captivity (cf. **Dan. 1:1-6**). In 597 BC, Judah's king, Jehoiakim is taken into captivity (**2 Chr. 36:5-6**), then three months and ten days later Jehoiachin, along with other members of the royal family, are also taken (**2 Chr. 36:9-10; 2 Kings 24:15-17**). In 586 BC, after a siege lasting approximately 18 months, Jerusalem is conquered and destroyed. *Most* of the people were taken into captivity, along with articles from the temple, and only the poorest people remained (cf. **2 Kings 25**). This is what the Lord had spoken through many prophets, and Jeremiah even revealed the duration of the captivity: "This is what the LORD says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place'" (**Jer. 29:10**). Ezekiel and Daniel would prophesy during this time. In 539 BC, 67 years after the second deportation of Jews, Babylon falls to Persia and one year later (538 BC) Cyrus of Persia who had conquered Babylon issues a decree allowing Jews to return and rebuild their temple (**Ezra 1:2-4; 6:3-5**). After two years (536 BC), they had completed the foundation and rejoiced greatly (**Ezra. 3:8-10**). However, their neighbors, specifically the Samaritans, vigorously opposed the work and managed to halt construction until Darius came to the Persian throne (**Ezra 4:1-5**). It was in the 2nd year of his reign (520 BC) that Haggai, along with Zechariah, prophesied to the remnant who had returned to Jerusalem under Ezra. Other projects had taken precedence among the people, thus God sent Haggai with a simple message: "Build the temple!"— a message that still has an application for the church today.



1. Haggai is a very short, but important book. In a mere 38 verses, what phrase is commonly repeated (26 times)? What does this teach us about the basis for all sound, effective teaching?

---

---

---

2. There is the one central purpose that dominates the book (which is essentially four separate addresses): the Lord through Haggai was determined to convict His people and get the temple rebuilt. First, the Lord indicts the Jews for their attitude and misplaced priorities—what were they all about at this point in time? (**Hag. 1:2-4, 9**) The Lord then calls them to examine themselves (**Hag. 1:5**), what was happening to their work? (**Hag. 1:10-11**) Why did God do this?

---

---

---

---

3. The message of Haggai is relevant for Christians today. Does that mean we are to be about building a physical structure? (**Acts 17:24ff**) What is the house of the Lord in our time? (**1 Pet. 2:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 1 Tim. 3:15**) How is this structure to be built? (**Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 3:5-9**) How is it to be strengthened within? (**Eph. 4:15-16**)

---

---

---

---

4. How can we avoid making the same mistake as the people of Haggai's day? (**Ecc. 10:18; Pro. 18:9; Matt. 6:33; 10:37-39**) Are you contributing to the work of the Lord? Are you useful in the saving of souls? Are you useful in the edification of your brethren? If we find ourselves answering no to these questions, then what must we do? (**Hag. 2:10-19**)

---

---

---