

The Book of Haggai

- I. A SPECIAL MESSAGE: DIRECTED TO THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE. IT SAID, "PERFORM!" (HAGGAI 1:1-15).
- A. The people had just about given up concerning the building of their Temple. After fifteen years it remained unfinished. Their lame excuse was, "The time is not yet come, the time that the Lord's house should be built" (1:2). Because of this carelessness, God could not and would not bless them with either spiritual or financial prosperity.
 - B. God's advice to them was therefore to:

"Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord" (1:8).
 - C. The spirits of Zerubbabel (the governor) and Joshua (the high priest) were then stirred up by the Lord. This godly pair thus led the people to finish building the Temple.
- II. A SPECIAL MESSAGE: DIRECTED TO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE. IT SAID, "PATIENCE" (HAGGAI 2:1-9).
- A. In spite of the insignificant Temple they had just built, as we have already seen (Ezra 3:8-13), there was weeping as well as joy at the dedication during Zerubbabel's time as some of the old men remembered the glories of Solomon's Temple. The new Temple was far inferior in size and cost.
 - B. Patience was needed because of the magnificent millennial temple that would someday be built (2:9).
- III. A SPECIAL MESSAGE: DIRECTED TO THE HEAD OF THE PEOPLE. IT SAID, "PONDER!" (HAGGAI 2:10-23).
- A. The fact of Judah's contamination (2:10-17). God asked Judah to answer two questions.
 - 1. "If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy?" (2:12). The answer of course, was, "No."
 - 2. "If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean?" (2:13). Here the answer was yes! The point God was making here is that whatever righteousness the nation Israel might have once possessed was not automatically transferred upon them at this time. But their own unrighteousness was affecting both them and their children.
 - B. The fact of God's determination (2:17-19). God promised them that because of their decision to finish the Temple, he would bless them from that day on, even before the structure was completed.
 - C. The fact of the great tribulation (2:20-22). Someday God would destroy all those Gentile nations that had afflicted Israel throughout the years.

"... I will shake the heavens and the earth; and I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those who ride in them; and the homes and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother" (2:21-22). (See also Heb. 12:26; Rev. 16:18-20.)

- D. The fact of Zerubbabel's elevation (2:23).

"In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, and will make thee as a signet; for I have chosen thee"

Some believe that Zerubbabel will be God's Prime Minister during the millennium.