

Haggai (NIVUK)

1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of YHWH^a came through the prophet Haggai^b to Zerubbabel^c son of Shealtiel^d, governor of Judah, and to Joshua^e son of Jozadak,^f the high priest:

²This is what YHWH Almighty says: ‘These people say, “The time has not yet come to rebuild YHWH’s house.”’

³Then the word of YHWH came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴‘Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?’

⁵Now this is what YHWH Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.’

⁷This is what YHWH Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured,’ says YHWH. ⁹‘You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?’ declares YHWH Almighty. ‘Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. ¹⁰Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. ¹¹I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labour of your hands.’

¹²Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of YHWH their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because YHWH their God had sent him. And the people feared YHWH. ¹³Then Haggai, YHWH’s messenger, gave this message of YHWH to the people: ‘I am with you,’ declares YHWH.

¹⁴So YHWH stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of YHWH Almighty, their God, ¹⁵on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

2 In the second year of King Darius, ¹on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of YHWH came through the prophet Haggai: ²‘Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jozadak,^l the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, ³“Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?”’

⁴“But now be strong, Zerubbabel,” declares YHWH. “Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,” declares YHWH, “and work. For I am with you,” declares YHWH Almighty. ⁵“This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.”

Sunday 20 July 2025

Word of YHWH #1

29 August 520BC

‘Rebuild my temple!’ (1:1-13)

- Blessing has been withheld

21 Sept 520BC

Israel start building (1:14-15)

Word of YHWH #2

17 October 520BC

‘Your temple looks rubbish...’ (2:1-3)

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‘...but I promise you a better temple with lots of blessing!’ (2:4-9)

^a YHWH means HE WILL BE

(short for I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE)

^b Haggai means *my feast or my festival*

^c Zerubbabel means *seed/child of Babylon*

^d Shealtiel means *I have asked of God*

^e Joshua means *YAH saves*

^f Jozadak or Jehozadak mean *YAH is righteous*



Andover
Bible
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⁶“This is what YHWH Almighty says: “In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. ⁷I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,” says YHWH Almighty. ⁸“The silver is mine and the gold is mine,” declares YHWH Almighty. ⁹“The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,” says YHWH Almighty. “And in this place I will grant peace,” declares YHWH Almighty.’

¹⁰On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of YHWH came to the prophet Haggai: ¹¹“This is what YHWH Almighty says: “Ask the priests what the law says: ¹²if someone carries consecrated meat in the fold of their garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, olive oil or other food, does it become consecrated?”’ The priests answered, ‘No.’

¹³Then Haggai said, ‘If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?’ ‘Yes,’ the priests replied, ‘it becomes defiled.’

¹⁴Then Haggai said, ““So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,” declares YHWH. “Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.

¹⁵““Now give careful thought to the days past^g – consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in YHWH’s temple. ¹⁶When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. ¹⁷I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not return to me,” declares YHWH. ¹⁸“From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of YHWH’s temple was laid. Give careful thought: ¹⁹is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig-tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. From this day on^h I will bless you.”’

²⁰The word of YHWH came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month: ²¹‘Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. ²²I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother.

²³““On that day,” declares YHWH Almighty, “I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,” declares YHWH, “and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,” declares YHWH Almighty.’

Word of YHWH #3

18 December 520BC

‘Your temple is unclean...’ (2:10-14)

- Cleanness does not spread

- Uncleaness does spread

**‘...and doesn’t bring you blessing!’
(2:15-19)**

- But looking forward, YHWH will bless

**‘My better temple will come through
my chosen mighty King!’ (2:20-23)**

- Keep an eye on the Davidic line

For reflection

Like Judah in 520BC, Christians today face limitations with our tangible, God-given means of relating to God. We relate to God as if ‘in a mirror dimly’ compared to the eternal life promise of ‘face to face’ (1 Cor 13:12).

1. In our current tangible, God-given means of relating to God (reading/hearing the Bible and speaking to him in prayer), how do you find that:
 - a. ‘does it seem to you like nothing?’ (cf. 2:3)
 - b. the lack of tangible blessing/reward (cf. 2:15-19)?
2. How does it feel to read about OT temple not really working in Haggai?
3. How does Haggai help you to look forward to YHWH’s promise that he will ‘shake the heavens and the earth’ (2:21)?

^g Or to this from this day on

^h LSB & NASB *Yet from this day on*; ESV & CSB *But from this day on*