

Key to HAGGAI

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, Haggai, one of three post-exilic prophets; time of ministry, following the 70-year exile in Babylon; key verses, 2:6-9; key word, build; time, 520-518 B.C.

2. THEME:

Haggai returned with the first expedition led by Zerubbabel, along with Ezra the scribe (Ezra 3:8; Haggai 1:1). Work began on the restoration of the temple, only to run into opposition from former inhabitants of the land. GOD inspired the prophet, who urged the work forward.

3. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Four messages of Haggai were spoken within a period of only four months.

It is possible that Haggai may have personally seen the glory of the temple of Solomon (2:3). This would have made him a very old man at the time of his prophetic ministry.

The messages are exceedingly condensed and perhaps were a summary of that which was given orally.

Each time Haggai's name is mentioned, he is called "the prophet" thus emphasizing his important ministry.

4. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

Opposition to the work caused the people to leave it and turn to more profitable pursuits. They rationalized that the time had not come for rebuilding. Adorning their homes, propagating their flocks and working their fields occupied their interests. Haggai's impassioned plea roused them again to action.

Haggai's first message was in substance that of Matthew 6:33. In the second he stressed that the glory of the new temple would be greater than the first. He told them that certain plagues had come on them due to their neglect of the important task, and the last message was specially to Zerubbabel promising him that GOD would destroy the enemy and that His people would endure and prosper.

5. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

GOD will not be frustrated nor change in His purposes; He uses men to fulfill His plans.

~ end of Haggai ~

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