

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

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Aug-Sep 2020

Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Class Schedule

Lesson	Date	Title	Teacher
1	Sunday, Aug 2 nd	Class Introduction	Sam
2	Wednesday, Aug 5 th	Introduction to Haggai	Sam
3	Sunday, Aug 9 th	The Book of Haggai	Sam
4	Wednesday, Aug 12 th	Introduction to Zechariah	Erik
5	Sunday, Aug 16 th	Zechariah 1-2: Visions 1-3	Erik
6	Wednesday, Aug 19 th	Zechariah 3-4: Visions 4-5	Erik
7	Sunday, Aug 23 rd	Zechariah 5-6: Visions 6-8	Erik
8	Wednesday, Aug 26 th	Zechariah 7-11: The Two Burdens: Part 1	Erik
9	Sunday, Aug 30 th	Zechariah 12-14: The Two Burdens: Part 2	Erik
10	Wednesday, Sep 2 nd	Introduction to Malachi	Sam
11	Sunday, Sep 29 th	Malachi 1-2	Sam
12	Wednesday, Sep 6 th	Malachi 3-4	Sam
13	Sunday, Sep 9 th	Application	Sam

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Lesson 3: The Book of Haggai

Haggai's First Message "Build the Lord's House" (1:1-15)

520 B.C.								
Elul		Tishri			Chisleu			
August	/	September	/	October	/	November	/	December

- Darius was the king of Persia at the time of this writing (520 B.C.).
- According to the Hebrew calendar the sixth month would be Elul, which is equivalent to parts of our August / September.
- The first day of the month was the regular festival of the new moon when the people gathered to offer sacrifices (Num 10:10)
- Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, had led the first remnant of exiles back to Jerusalem in 536 B.C. He was of the royal lineage of David.
- Joshua the son of Jehozadak was a direct descendant of Aaron the Levite, the first high priest.

Summary

With the people all gathered for the festival of the new moon, Haggai begins to exhort them to rebuild the temple. Their harvest was past and it had not been a good year (v 9-11). Therefore at a time when they were feeling downcast and depressed due to the barren year, it was fitting that Haggai exhorts them to consider their ways (v 7). The poor harvest was not merely by chance of nature, but a judgment from God. Upon hearing the message, everyone's spirit was stirred (v 14) and work was resumed on the Lord's house that very month (v 15).

Haggai's Second Message "The Latter House Will Be More Glorious" (2:1-9)

520 B.C.								
Elul		Tishri			Chisleu			
August	/	September	/	October	/	November	/	December

- The seventh month of the Hebrew calendar was Tishri and would correspond to our September / October.
- The twenty-first day of Tishri would be the last and great day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev 23:34-43).
- What covenant is God referring to in verse 5?
 - God had delivered them out of Egypt and made them his special people because of his covenant with Abraham (Exo 2:23-25; 19:5-6)
 - He made a covenant with Israel dedicated with blood (Exo 24:8)
 - He declared that he would dwell among them and be their God (Exo 29:45)
 - This nation was favored because of God's promise to Abraham that through his seed all families of the earth would be blessed (Gen 12:3)

Summary

This second message by the prophet Haggai was spoken when the builders had been at work on the temple about a month. They were celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles but rather than it being a week of great rejoicing, their hearts were downtrodden. First, their harvest had not been bountiful, and furthermore, the material they had to rebuild the temple reflected their poverty. This message from Jehovah was to encourage them by his promise to bless and to strengthen them in their zeal for His work. This was a promise of the spiritual blessings that were to come through Jesus Christ, a promise realized by all who are the children of God by faith and who now are the heirs of this promise (Gal 3:26-29). Though the nation had suffered another captivity in Babylon, it was because of their failure to keep God's commandments (Deut 28:15-68). But God remembered his covenant which he had

spoken and confirmed to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This covenant was the reason for the restoration of their national identity and the real purpose of the preaching of Haggai to rebuild the temple. The reconstruction of the temple stood as a testimony of God’s presence and a re-affirmation of his covenant with them when they came out of Egypt.

Haggai’s Third Message “From this Day On, God Will Bless You” (2:10-19)

520 B.C.							
August	Elul	September	Tishri	October	November	Chisleu	December
	/		/		/		

- It had been three months since the remnant had favorably received Haggai’s first message and resumed building the temple (1:15).
- When the second message had been delivered they had shown signs of discouragement, therefore the Lord assured them of his pleasure in their work on the temple.
- The ninth month on the Hebrew calendar is Chisleu, and corresponds with our November / December.

Summary

By this time the winter crops had been sown and watered by the autumn rains. Haggai’s message draws an analogy from the law to explain how the people had brought upon themselves the failure of their crops; but now, because they had faithfully given themselves to the work of the Lord, blessings which had been withdrawn will be restored.

Haggai’s Fourth Message “Zerubbabel is Chosen as God’s Signet” (2:20-23)

- This message is delivered on the same day as Haggai’s third message, when the Lord promised to restore his blessings on the returned remnant.
- A signet is a small seal, esp. one set in a ring, used instead of or with a signature to give authentication to an official document.

Summary

Speaking solely to Zerubbabel now, the overthrowing of the nations is promised (v 20-22) and the messianic hope is preserved in Zerubbabel (v 23). Jehovah will destroy the strength of the kingdoms by using one another’s swords as one hostile kingdom will destroy another. And though the conquering nation may think victory is by its own power, the real truth is that it will be “the rod” of God’s anger (Isa 10:5-19). In the end, the message is given to Zerubbabel that the Lord will take him and make him like a signet ring, “For I have chosen you, declares the Lord of hosts” (v 23). This prophecy of Haggai is messianic. God is promising Zerubbabel that he will be a direct link in the genealogy of Christ.

Thought Questions

1. Why does Haggai specify the exact times his messages were given?
2. What would have been some challenges the people probably faced in order to obey God’s command like they did?
3. How do we sometimes act like the people Haggai preaches to in this book?