

# HAGGAI

## GOALS OF THE LESSON:

1. Understand the background to the prophecy of Haggai.
2. Understand the reaction of God and the people toward the temple.

Introduction: Very little is known about the prophet Haggai. Outside of his own book, his name appears only in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14. The name Haggai means “festive,” which is interesting considering the time period Haggai lived. Haggai was likely born in Babylonian captivity. Haggai prophesies in 520 B.C. to the remnant in Jerusalem. The captives had left Persia in 536 B.C. and had been in Jerusalem for sixteen years. Yet during these sixteen years, the temple of the Lord had not been rebuilt. The remnant had receive opposition to rebuilding the temple and had become discouraged. The mocking and ridicule took its toll and the people left the temple uncompleted. Thus Haggai encourages the people to rebuild the Lord’s temple.

1. When had the temple been destroyed?
2. In what year did the Persians conquer the Babylonians?
3. Who led the first group of captives to return to Jerusalem?
4. In what year was the foundation of the temple laid?

## The Survey Chart:

Take your Bible and skim through the book of Haggai, looking at the subheadings of each paragraph in each chapter. Record a few main events from each chapter on the diagonal lines of the survey chart.

5. As you fill out your survey chart, what themes do you see in the book?

**1:1-15 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

6. What explanation is given to reason why the captives have not prospered?

Life Application:

7. Taking the answer to question 6 in consideration, what lessons can we learn from this?

8. Noticing 1:12-15, what is the response of the leaders and the people to Haggai's correction?

Life Application:

9. What lessons can we learn from the reaction of the captives to Haggai's correction?

**2:1-9 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

10. What is meant by the phrase, "I will shake all the nations" in 2:7?

11. What is meant by the phrase, "the desire of all nations shall come" in 2:7?

**2:10-19 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

12. Notice 2:11-14.

- a. Explain the point Haggai is making by asking the priests about touching things unclean in 2:11-14.

Life Application:

- b. What lessons can we learn from Haggai's point?

13. Explain 2:19.

**2:20-23 In the space below and left, write your own thoughts about what you found interesting and questions you have. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

14. In what way would Zerubbabel become a chosen signet?

15. What is the key phrase in the book, which is used 26 times?

**MAIN POINTS TO REMEMBER FROM THE LESSON:**

1. "Because my house lies in ruins...." (1:9)
2. "So with every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean." (2:14)