

I. REVIEW OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

- A. Remember that there are twelve minor prophets
 - 1. Three - Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are post-exilic and have written to the returning captives in the time period after 520 B.C.
 - 2. Two - Jonah and Obadiah are written to other peoples
 - a. Jonah to Nineveh in about 760 BC
 - b. Obadiah to Edom in about 845 BC
 - 3. That leaves seven - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah, Nahum, Habbakuk, and Zephaniah
 - 4. Of those seven, the first four Hosea, Joel, Amos and Micah were written before or during the Northern Captivity in 722 BC
 - a. These first four could have been addressed to North or South
 - b. The other three (Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah) must be written to the South since the North had been taken captive when they were written.
 - c. It turns out that JOEL wrote to Judah (Joel 2:1) rather than the North.
 - d. So, remember the word "HAM" (Hosea, Amos, Micah) to remember which three wrote to the North. The other four wrote to the South. (Micah really addressed both).
- B. A key phrase for the twelve would be helpful
 - 1. Hosea - whoredom
 - 2. Joel - Locust
 - 3. Amos - Earthquake
 - 4. Obadiah - Edom
 - 5. Jonah - Nineveh repents
 - 6. Micah - Controversy
 - 7. Nahum - Nineveh destroyed
 - 8. Habakkuk - "How long?"
 - 9. Zephaniah - "The day of the LORD"
 - 10. Haggai - Consider your ways
 - 11. Zechariah - Future visions
 - 12. Malachi - Questions for God

II. INTRODUCTION

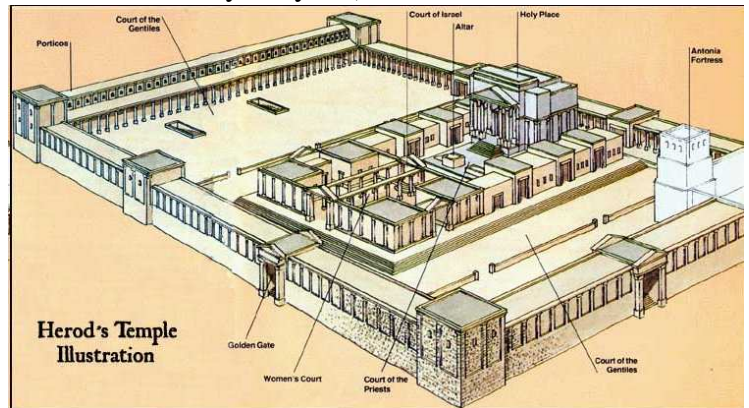
- A. Haggai is one of the three 'post-exilic' prophets, the other two are Zechariah and Malachi
- B. Haggai's name means "festive" - perhaps because the people obeyed God.
- C. He is the first of the prophets to prophecy after the captivity
- D. His emphasis is that the people work to rebuild the temple.
 - 1. He encourages the people to "build for God"!
 - 2. The two chapters are two different messages from God.
- E. Haggai is shortest of the minor prophets except Obadiah. It can be read out loud in less than six minutes.
- F. Haggai is mentioned in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14 and only otherwise is Haggai itself

1. In Ezra 4:24, the work on the temple had ceased because of the letter mentioned in Ezra 4:7.
 2. Haggai is said to have prophesied in Jerusalem as a result (Ezra 5:1)
 3. It worked!" Ezra 6:14 says, "And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo."
- G. In 536 BC, 50,000 Jews had returned to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel because of the decree of Cyrus¹ (see II Chron 36:22 and Ezra 1:1)
1. They built an altar and offered sacrifice
 2. The next year, they started work on the temple, but it was stopped.
 3. The people had become occupied with their own houses and forgotten about God's temple.
 4. Because of this they are not satisfied and are wasting their lives, and God is withholding blessings and productivity from them.
 5. Haggai's first call to build came 16 years later (about our September 520 BC)
 - a. Haggai prophesied in Sep, Oct, and Dec of 520
 - b. Zechariah prophesied in Nov 520, Feb 519, and Dec 518.
- H. Haggai's writing addressed "lethargy" in the people, and unlike most prophets, the people RESPONDED to Haggai's message.
- I. It consisted of four separate addresses over a period of four months
1. A message of rebuke
 2. A message of courage
 3. A message of assurance
 4. A message of prophecy
- J. Zerubbabel – "The seed of Babylon,"
1. The son of Salathiel or Shealtiel Hag 1:1
 2. Zorobabel - Mt 1:12 - called also the son of Pedaiiah 1 Chron 3:17-19 i.e.,
 - a. According to a frequent usage of the word "son;" the grandson or the nephew of Salathiel.
 3. Zerubbabel is also known by the Persian name Sheshbazzar Ezr 1:8,11
 4. In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, Zerubbabel led the first band of Jews, numbering 42,360 Ezra 2:64 exclusive of a large number of servants, who returned from captivity at the close of the seventy years.
 5. In the second year after the Return, he erected an altar and laid the foundation of the temple on the ruins of that which had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar #Ezr 3:8-13 4:1-6:22
 6. All through the work he occupied a prominent place, inasmuch as he was a descendant of the royal line of David.
 7. Zerubbabel is a picture of Christ.
- K. Haggai 2:7 is a prophecy of Christ – the Desire of All Nations
- L. Haggai may have been an old man who had seen the first temple 66 years earlier

¹ Isaiah had prophesied about Cyrus, by name, in Is 44:28 and Is 45:1. This was over 100 years before the decree.

III. MESSAGES IN HAGGAI

- A. A message of negligence (1:1-15)
1. The people had an excuse (it isn't time yet).
 2. God rebuked them for the delay (3-11)
 - a. They were suffering difficulties, disappointment, and disaster because of their disobedience.
 - b. They were not satisfied
 3. They actually listened!!! (12-15) and God encouraged them
- B. A message of nerve (1:13 to 2:9)
1. The presence of the Lord came when they obeyed (1:13)
 2. God stirred them (1:14) to be strong
 3. Power of the LORD was evident (2:7)
 4. The anointed of the LORD (2:7)
 - a. Christ would fill the house, and God used Herod to improve upon it just a bit.
 5. The glory of the LORD (2:9)
- C. A message of "non union" (2:10 to 2:29)
1. Holiness is not spread by contact, but uncleanness is (2:12-13)
 2. The people are not clean, but are guilty (2:14)
 3. The consequence was insufficiency (2:15-17)
 4. Now, things are different (because they obeyed) (2:18-19)
 - a. "Is the seed yet in the barn?" – i.e. have you given up planting?
 - b. Don't give up - God will now bless
- D. A message of Notification (2:20-23)
1. The overthrow of Gentile kingdoms (2:22)
 2. The LORD Jesus Christ will be King (2:23)
 - a. Zerubbabel is the current ruler and a symbol of Christ
 - b. This is the restored Israel in the 1,000 year reign of Christ



IV. APPLICATION

- A. Haggai was written to a certain people in a certain place at a certain time, but its principles concerning God are timeless.
1. Don't make excuses for not serving God.
 2. Don't think you can bless yourself out of God's curses.
 3. If you would just do what God says, He will take care of your needs.
 4. You cannot make the unclean thing become clean, but God can.
 5. Repentance has its benefits.
 6. In case you still don't believe it - Israel will be a world power AGAIN,

with Christ at the head.

H O M E W O R K

Name: _____

1. Name the three prophets who wrote after the exile.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What other prophet wrote at the same time as Haggai?
3. What is the date of Haggai's writing?
4. To how many people did Haggai write?
5. What king decreed that the temple be rebuilt?
6. How much time had elapsed between that decree and Haggai's first prophecy?
7. What excuse had the people made for not building the temple?
8. What specific problems were the people having as a result of their failure to build?
9. What did Haggai tell the people to do?
10. What was their response?

11. Name one verse that give a prophecy of or about Christ?

12. Who was Zerubbabel?

13. What specific event had caused the halt of the work on the temple?

14. After work resumed, what promise(s) did God make to the people?

15. Explain Haggai 2:22 - what is it describing?