

- I. The current problem 1:1-15
- II. Encouragement to build 2:1-9
- III. Warnings of complacency 2:10-19
- IV. Prospects of the future 2:20-23

The outline must be seen built around the central them in which the Israelites have not been able to attain because of the misdirection of their priorities. (1:4, 6).

In the plan of redemption Haggai offers the twofold thrust that God must be honored as a condition for blessing and peace and the concept that His providence allows for blessing on a sovereign basis, not one of assumption. The promises of God are re-emphasized in powerful fashion and His desire to achieve them is not set in any minimal way. But trust in Him and compliance with His will must mark His people if they are to prosper or to please Him.

Questions of importance include such as the nature of the ceiled houses (1:4), the failure of opportunity (1:9)? The role of Zerubbabel and the difficulty of leadership is also a question point. What is the "desire of nations" and the "shaking of the whole earth" in 2:6-7. And how should we understand the chronology of 2:18.. "the ninth month"?

Archaeology confirms the return of the Jews and the rebuilding of the temple. It does not add, so far as I am aware, to the material we know about Haggai or his particular ministry.

To better understand Haggai, review the history of this time in a Bible dictionary or encyclopaedia. Chart out the chronology of ministry given in the book and note the period of prophetic activity assigned to him. Sketch the chronological record by comparing Haggai, Zechariah, and Ezra. Study the character and family of Zerubbabel and determine what his full significance was to the nation.

For further reading consult the commentaries noted on page 66. See also Joyce Baldwin: HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI (IVP).

b. Further study:

Haggai is a fine book for any study that wants to emphasize the work of the Lord. It lends itself to good treatment for giving, sacrificial work, etc. The eschatological picture is not so clear as in other books, I think, but worthy of further study with regard to the way and time in which God will exalt His people.

11. A Study Survey of Zechariah ("God's Program")

a. An overview: (Putnam notes with permission)

Zechariah is one of the most important books in the Minor Prophets. According to Zechariah 1:1, Zechariah was the grandson of Iddo, perhaps the same Iddo named in Nehemiah 12:16. If this was the case, he was a priest or a prophet at the (new) temple in Jerusalem. He is mentioned in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14 in conjunction with Haggai. Chapters 1-8 were written according to the date formulae in Zecha. 1:1, 7; 7:1, during the same period of time as was Haggai (i.e., autumn, 520 BC). This view of chapters 1-8 is generally accepted by biblical scholars.