



Outline of Haggai

Main theme: *Put God first, rebuild His house, and trust His promises.*

1. A Call to Rebuild the Temple — Haggai 1:1–15

- **Setting:** The second year of King Darius, around 520 BC.
- The people had returned from exile but had **neglected rebuilding the Temple**.
- They focused on building and improving their own houses while God's house remained in ruins.
- Haggai challenges them to **consider their ways**.
- Their lack of spiritual priorities had affected their prosperity.
- The people respond with obedience.
- Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the remnant of the people begin work on the Temple.

Key verse: Haggai 1:8 — “Go up to the mountain and bring wood and build the house...”

2. Encouragement to Continue — Haggai 2:1–9

- Some older people remembered Solomon's Temple and were disappointed that the new Temple seemed inferior.
- God tells Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people: **“Be strong... and work.”**
- God promises that **He is with them**.
- He promises that the glory of the latter house will be greater than the former.
- The passage concludes with God's promise of **peace**.

Key message: Don't be discouraged by how small the beginning looks; God's presence and promise matter more.

3. A Call to Holiness — Haggai 2:10–19

- Haggai asks the priests questions about ceremonial holiness.
- The lesson is that **holiness cannot simply be transferred**, but uncleanness can defile.
- God applies this to the people: their previous disobedience had affected their situation.
- But now that they have turned toward obedience, God promises to bless them.
- Haggai points them toward a **new beginning**.

Key message: Obedience and spiritual purity matter to God.

4. God's Promise to Zerubbabel — Haggai 2:20–23

- God gives Haggai a final message for Zerubbabel.
- God says He will **shake the heavens and the earth**.
- Nations and kingdoms will be overturned.
- Zerubbabel is called “**my servant**” and compared to a **signet ring**.
- God promises to establish him.

Key message: God remains sovereign over nations and will accomplish His purposes through His chosen servant.

Haggai in Four Simple Ideas

Passage	Focus	Response
1:1–15	Rebuild God's house	Obey
2:1–9	Don't be discouraged	Be strong
2:10–19	Pursue holiness	Turn back to God
2:20–23	God's future promise	Trust Him

The central message

Haggai challenges God's people to **stop putting their own priorities ahead of God**, return to faithful obedience, and trust that God is working even when what they see seems small.

A helpful way to remember the book is:

Consider → Rebuild → Be Strong → Be Holy → Trust God's Promise.