

Haggai Outline

Introduction: The dates of Haggai's prophesy are unusually precise. Haggai's work occurs between mid-August and mid-December in the year 520 when the exiles were back in Jerusalem and working on rebuilding the temple. The overarching message of Haggai is to focus the people on this work, which was no small task given the enormous number of challenges facing them.

While the temple Haggai refers to is clearly the literal second temple, it is helpful to understand the temple as having symbolic meaning as well. The temple in a more symbolic meaning is the kind of legacy work that all of us are called to do- the work that has lasting value and that gives meaning to all our days. Haggai makes a distinction between the daily luxuries that will pass, while calling our attention to the harder work of "temple building" that may not be as pleasurable in the short run, but that will have long term significance.

Chapter 1: Not right for the people to live well when temple not finished; we eat but never
Have our fill- focus on building something of lasting value.

Chapter 2: The current temple a scandal compared to Solomon's; questions to the priests and
God's promise to be with the people as they rebuild; the coming Messianic kingdom

Stories to know: Focus on the lasting value of rebuilding the temple (1:1-9); Clean and
unclean hands (2:10-19); the coming kingdom (2:20-23)