

The Book of Haggai

10

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we study the book of **Haggai**, the tenth book of “The Minor Prophets.” Haggai’s name means “festal,” so he may have been born during one of the three great festivals – Passover, Pentecost or Tabernacles.

Read Ezra 5:1-2

Read Ezra 6:14

Haggai prophesied, together with Zechariah, during the time of the return from Babylonian exile, when the Temple was being rebuilt. In 538 BC, Zerubbabel had led approximately 50,000 Jews back to Jerusalem to begin the rebuilding of the Temple. About two years later, they finished the foundation of the temple, amid great rejoicing (**Ezra 3:8-10**). Opposition quickly arose from the Samaritans, however, who feared the religious and political implications of a rebuilt Temple. And so work on the Temple came to a halt until Darius became king of Persia.

Haggai began to preach in the second year of Darius’ reign (**1:1**), which was in 520 BC, some 18 years after the Jews had first returned to Jerusalem. During this time, the Jews had convinced themselves that “[t]he time has not yet come for the Lord’s house to be built” (**1:2**). And so Haggai’s ministry (which lasted only four months) was a stirring of the Jews to action. He compared the consequences of disobedience to God’s command (**1:6,11; 2:16-17**) with the consequences of obedience (**2:7-9,19**). Twice he instructs the people of Jerusalem to “give careful thought to your ways” (**1:5,7**).

The book of **Haggai** is divided into two chapters:

- **Chapter 1** – The call to rebuild the Temple
- **Chapter 2** – The promised glory of the Temple

The last half of **Haggai** focuses on the future of Israel and the coming of the Messiah, whose coming would fill the rebuilt Temple with glory. With this in mind, let’s now read the book of **Haggai** in one sitting.

Memory Verse

In reply Jesus declared,
 “I tell you the truth, no one can see
 the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

John 3:3

Your Fishing Kit

This is the twenty-second verse in your fishing kit. Following on from **John 1:12**, **John 3:3** tells us that spiritual birth into God’s family is not just a benefit of believing on Jesus; it is an imperative – a requirement for seeing the kingdom of God! Jesus is absolutely clear: “...*no one* can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.