



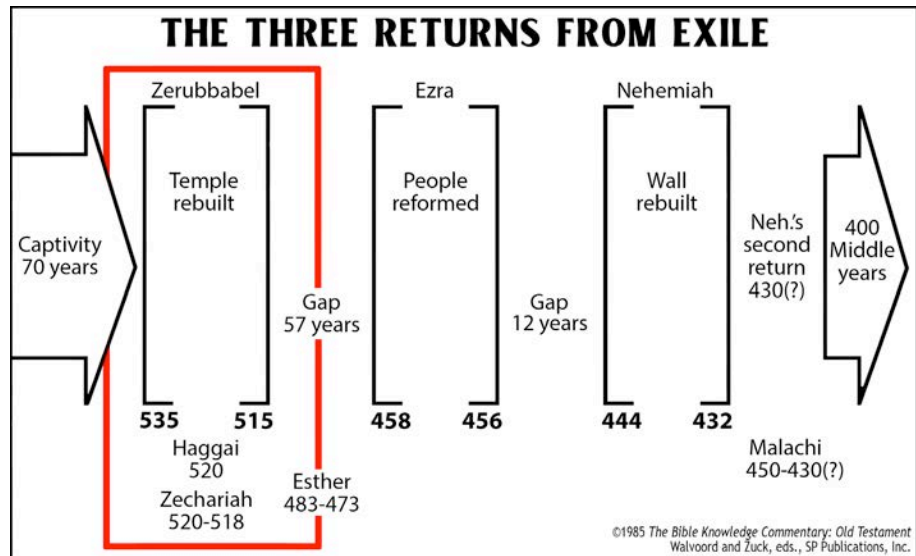
COMING UP... NOV 3: Zechariah NOV 10: Esther NOV 17: Nehemiah NOV 24: Malachi CLASS ENDS

HAGGAI SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Finish"

THE TIMES ...

Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jews to return and rebuild the Temple (538 BC)
 Zerubbabel led the first 50,000 exiles home
 They laid the Temple's foundation in 535 BC
 But oppression, laziness and apathy have brought the work to a halt for 15 years
 So God sends Haggai in 520 BC to exhort and encourage His people to get back to work

THE EXILES LEAVE BABYLON



THE BASICS ...

Who: Haggai ("feast") **When:** postexilic (Aug to Dec 520 BC) **Where:** to the first wave of returned exiles
Why: "Haggai's primary purpose in writing was to encourage the people who returned to Israel to continue the task of rebuilding the temple after a sixteen-year hiatus." –Charles Dyer

LESSON THEME: It's not how you start, but how you finish

#1: Self-Centered Priorities

1:1-15; August 29, 520 BC
 The exiles were plenty industrious when it came to building their own fine houses
 But had grown apathetic and lazy toward building God's Temple
 They were making excuses for their self-centered priorities, missing some blessings
 But the Word brought conviction and change

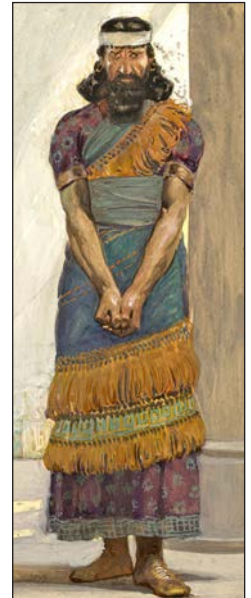
#2: Making Comparisons

2:1-9; October 17, 520 BC (6 weeks later)
 Perhaps the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles; a day of joy and celebration
 But instead they were discouraged and complaining; "our work doesn't matter much"
 They don't know God's future plans
 That Temple stood for almost 500 years and was the site of Jesus' ministry

#3: Unconfessed Sin

2:10-19; December 18, 520 BC (2 months)

Sin and its defilement is “transmittable”
Though they’d been back at work for 4 months, they still weren’t being blessed ...
They hadn’t confessed their sins (2:14)
Even sacrificial work, if offered by hands with an impure heart, is unacceptable to God
But with confession comes promised blessing



“Haggai” by James Tissot

#4: Discouragement

2:20-23; December 18, 520 BC (same day)
The work was undoubtedly hard and Zerubbabel was responsible for encouraging his people
Leaders are especially hard-hit in such times
The weight of responsibility and the circumstances around him got him down
But the Lord knew it and encouraged him with how special he was to Him

Four Derailment Factors

1. Self-centered priorities and agendas
2. Making comparisons of work done for the Lord
3. Unconfessed sin in the lives of those who’re trying to advance God’s work
4. Letting discouragement win out

APPLICATION: It’s not how you start, but how you finish

#1: Self-Centered Priorities

How are your priorities and agendas?
Are you too preoccupied with building your own “house” that you’re neglecting His “house?”
Is Jesus the first thought of every day?
Is He the first One consulted in every decision?
Does He get the first dollar of every paycheck?
The first hour of every day?
The first day of every week?
We lose out when we put God second

#2: Making Comparisons

Are you serving the Lord right now?
If you are ...
Do you compare your work with a brother or sister’s work for the Lord ... and get discouraged?
Perhaps your work doesn’t seem as “large” or as “grandiose” or as “important” as someone else’s
Do you know God’s future plans for your work?
Repent (John 21:20-22; Phil 4:11-13)

#3: Unconfessed Sin

Unconfessed sin defiles even sacrificial offerings or sacrificial work done in His name
Do you have any known and ongoing but unconfessed sin in your life?
Confess and depend (1 John 1:9; Phil 1:6)
God will not be mocked: unconfessed sin defiles the worshiping heart and the serving hands and won’t advance His work

#4: Discouragement

Are you discouraged tonight?
Does the enemy appear to be too strong and has you surrounded?
Lift up your eyes!
You are precious to Him (Heb 12:22-24)
His presence is with you (Heb 13:5)
Don’t allow circumstances to cause you to walk by sight instead of faith (2 Cor 5:7)

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PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

YOUTUBE VIDEOS + HANDOUTS www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqC2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF

Big Ideas in HAGGAI

Building God's temple should be the people's priority rather than building their own homes

There are consequences for disobeying God

God provides the inspiration, strength and resources for those who obey him

God will bless the exiles with his presence, peace and prosperity if they obey him

The NIV Quickview Bible



Frieze of Prophets, East Wall (Boston Public Library)

A contract dated January 18, 1893 officially commissioned painter John Singer Sargent to undertake work on the Boston Public Library Murals. Represented in this west segment of the wall from left to right are Micah, Haggai, Malachi and Zechariah. Canvases were completed in Sargent's studios in Morgan Hall, England and London, England, and shipped to Boston and adhered to the library walls in four installations occurring in 1895, 1903, 1916 and 1919. Total measurement of "Frieze of Prophets" measures approximately 39x7 feet.

John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) was born in Florence, Italy to an American family. He was educated in Paris and spent most of his life living and working in England. The artist maintained close ties to Boston and painted the Boston Public Library murals. The murals—arguably his most ambitious works—represented an opportunity to solidify his reputation as a master.

Sargent artist used "raised relief" elements, including wood, metal, papier-mâché, glass, and plaster to help emboss and illuminate the figures in natural light. He traveled to the Middle East to study the vernacular of the region and to compose studies for the figures in this portion.

HAGGAI

served as a prophet to Judah about 520 B.C., after the return from exile

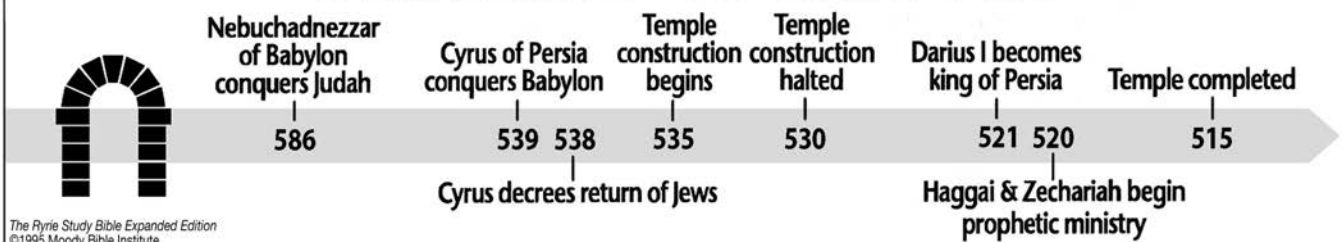
Climate of the times The people of Judah had been exiled to Babylon in 586 B.C., and Jerusalem and the Temple had been destroyed. Under Cyrus, king of Persia, the Jews were allowed to return to Judah and rebuild their Temple.

Main message The people returned to Jerusalem to begin rebuilding the Temple, but they hadn't finished. Haggai's message encouraged the people to finish rebuilding God's Temple.

Importance of message . . . The Temple lay half-finished while the people lived in beautiful homes. Haggai warned them against putting their possessions and jobs ahead of God. We must put God first in our lives.

Contemporary prophet . . . Zechariah (520–480 B.C.)

TIMELINE OF HAGGAI



The Ryrie Study Bible Expanded Edition
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THE CHALLENGE of HAGGAI

OUR CHOICES MATTER.
 THE Obedience of GOD'S PEOPLE IS PART OF
 HOW GOD WORKS IN THE WORLD.
 THIS SHOULD MOTIVATE HUMILITY & ACTION.

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 the Bible Project

581 B.C.
 (SEE JONAH 3:1-10)

BARUCH'S CALLING! NATIONAL LEVEL!

HEREBREW PROPHETS

...BUT THERE'S HOPE!
 NEW JERUSALEM

1:1-15 ACCUSATION & RESPONSE

AUGUST 520 B.C.
 (SEE EZRA 3:1-10)

IT'S NOT TIME TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE!

ARE YOUR HEARTS MORE HEBREW THAN YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO GOD? (1:9)

THE TEMPLE

THE N. GOVERNMENT KEBEL! (SEE DEUTERONOMY 18:22-23)

THE PEOPLE SET TO WORK (SEE EZRA 5:1-2)

JOSHUA & ZERUBBABEL

2:1-9 ADDRESSING SHATTERED EXPECTATIONS

ONE MONTH LATER

ELDERS WHO REMEMBER SOLUTIONS TO TEMPLE

NEW JERUSALEM

REMEMBER THE PROMISE OF GOD'S FUTURE KINGDOM!

THE NATIONS JOIN GOD'S KINGDOM (SEE ISAIAH 9 & 60-62; MICAH 4-5)

2:10-19 CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

TWO MONTHS LATER

A CONVERSATION ABOUT RITUAL PURITY (KITCHEN LEAVINGS)

...IS THE FOOD IMPURE TOO? YES!

THAT'S WHAT THESE PEOPLE ARE LIKE!

IMPURE JUSTICE IMPURE HEART IMPURE

THE WILDERNESS GENERATION Obedience + Blessing Obedience + Blessing

ONLY TRUE COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

THE COMING OF GOD'S KINGDOM & BLESSING

2:20-23 FUTURE HOPE OF GOD'S KINGDOM

THAT SAME DAY

ESTABLISHMENT of MESSIANIC KING (ZERUBBABEL?)

NEW JERUSALEM

DEFEAT THE NATIONS AMONG THE NATIONS

KEEP READING!

WILL HAGGAI'S GENERATION EXPERIENCE THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE PROMISES? IS ZERUBBABEL THE MESSIAH?

520 B.C.
 (SEE EZRA 3:1-10)

SEE EZRA 4:1-6

ZERUBBABEL (from the line of David)

TOSHUA (high priest)

THE FUTURE SEEMS BRIGHT... BUT NOT FROM HAGGAI'S POINT OF VIEW!