

PUTTING FIRST THINGS FIRST
HAGGAI / 1-6-19 / PM

I. THE BACKGROUND OF HAGGAI.

A. The Man.

1. His name means "festival".
2. All we know about him is found in the books of Haggai and Ezra.
3. His task was to call the people of Israel to rebuild the Temple after the Babylonian captivity.

B. The Message.

1. The Date.

- a. Along with Zechariah, Haggai's ministry was after the Babylonian captivity which began in 587 b.c.
- b. Zerrubbabel, who became the governor of Israel, led the Jewish exiles back to Israel in 536 b.c.
- c. Haggai's ministry was 16 years later in 520 B.C.—1:1.

2. The Setting.

- a. The Temple foundation had been laid in 536 B.C. according to Ezra 3:8-13.
- b. The Temple construction was halted for 16 years according to Ezra 4:1-24.
- c. Haggai and Zachariah were called to encourage the people to start construction again—Ezra 5:1-2 and 6:14.

3. The Messages.

- a. Haggai delivered four messages to Israel regarding the rebuilding of the Temple.
- b. All four messages took place over a 4 month time—1:1; 2:1, 10, 20.

II. A CALL TO FINISH WHAT GOD STARTED

- A. The people delayed the rebuilding of the Temple for 16 years.
- B. The reasons for the Temple's delay.
 - 1. The people said it wasn't the right time—1:2.
 - 2. The people were preoccupied with their own homes—1:3-4.
 - 3. The people said they couldn't afford it—1:5-6.
 - 4. The people suffered a drought—1:7-11.
- C. The response to Haggai's call to finish what they started.
 - 1. The people finally obeyed—1:12.
 - 2. The prophet assured the people that God was with them—1:13.
 - 3. The people started construction again—1:14-15.

III. LESSONS FROM HAGGAI.

- 1. It's good to review our priorities from time to time—Hag. 1:5.
- 2. It's appropriate to have a healthy sense of fear of the Lord—Hag.1:12; Prov. 1:7.
- 3. God is with you even when you don't know it—Hag. 1:13.
- 4. There are consequences for neglecting God—Hag.1:9-11.
- 5. God's promises do not fade over time—Hag. 2:5.
- 6. We all need a Haggai in our lives.