

# HAGGAI

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	<b>Minor Prophets</b>				
520 BC	<b>Haggai</b> 2 Chapters	Rebuild My temple	The Jews are rebuked for not completing the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. They are urged to finish.	It is time to do God's work and trust Him for the result.	Jesus establishes Christian worship.

# HAGGAI

## OUTLINE OF HAGGAI

### **I. A Call to Construction of the Temple, 1:1-15**

A. Introduction, 1:1-2

B. The Reprimand, 1:3-6

C. The Remedy, 1:7-8

D. The Rebuke from God, 1:9-11

E. The Reaction of the People, 1:12-15

### **II. A Call to Courage in the Lord, 2:1-9**

### **III. A Call to Cleanness of Life, 2:10-19**

### **IV. A Call to Confidence in the Future, 2:20-23**

# HAGGAI

Haggai ("My feasts") was written after the Jews' return to Jerusalem from the captivity.

God tells the people through Haggai to rebuild the temple first. It would keep them from falling back into sin. This would bring unity, faith and strength back to them.

The prophet, Haggai, delivered his message to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah (Southern Kingdom, including Jerusalem) encouraging the rebuilding of the Temple.

# HAGGAI

Four distinct messages are given in the book.

The first is in chapter 1 and gives solemn reproofs. Thankfully, these produced good effects in leaders and people, in their being stirred to build.

The second (chapter 2: 1-9) gives refreshing encouragement in its precious prophetic vision of Christ.

The third (chapter 2: 10-19) insists upon the purity and separation from sin, becoming to God's house, and urges godly consideration.

The fourth (chapter 2: 20-23) is prophetic of the overthrowing of all oppressing kingdoms, and of the blessing established in the person of Jehovah's Servant, the Messiah, typified by Zerubbabel, ruler of Israel.

# HAGGAI

The people of Judah listened to Haggai's message to rebuild the temple. His message was passionate, simple, and straightforward.

They had forgotten their God, choosing instead to focus on their own interests. Nothing was more important for the Jews than to show that the Lord was at the center of their thoughts and actions, so Haggai directed them to finish rebuilding God's temple.

## Haggai 1: 7-8

7 Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Consider your ways!

8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the Lord.

Through the physical act of rebuilding the temple, the people began to indicate a shift in their **spiritual lives: from devotion to self toward devotion to God.**

# HAGGAI

Haggai sought to challenge the people of God concerning their priorities. He called them to reverence and to glorify God by building the Temple, despite local and official opposition.

Haggai told them not to be discouraged because this Temple would not be quite as richly decorated as Solomon's. He exhorted them to turn from the uncleanness of their ways and to trust in God's sovereign power.

The Book of Haggai is a reminder of the problems the people of God faced at this time, how the people courageously trusted in God, and how God provided for their needs.

# HAGGAI

Haggai's encouragement to rebuild the temple by the Jews is like the apostle Paul's exhortation to Christians to build their lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

## **1 Cor. 3: 10-17**

**10** According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

**11** For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**12** Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

**13** each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

**14** If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

**15** If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**16** Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

**17** If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

# HAGGAI

The Book of Haggai draws attention to common problems most people face even today.

## **Haggai asks us:**

1. To examine our priorities to see if we are more interested in our own pleasures than doing the work of God;
2. To reject a defeatist attitude when we run into opposition or discouraging circumstances;
3. To confess our failures and seek to live pure lives before God;
4. To act courageously for God because we have the assurance that He is with us always and is in full control of our circumstances;
5. To rest secure in God's hands knowing that He will abundantly bless us as we faithfully serve Him.



# HAGGAI

## Lessons from the book of Haggai:

### 1. God is always with us.

Even though His people had not obeyed Him, He had not abandoned them or left them alone.

#### **Haggai 1: 13**

**13** Then Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke by the commission of the Lord to the people saying, “‘I am with you,’ declares the Lord.”

#### **Haggai 2: 4-5**

**4** ‘But now take courage, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord, ‘take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the Lord of hosts.

**5** ‘As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!’

# HAGGAI

## Lessons from the book of Haggai:

**2. The trials and tribulations in our lives are an invitation and an opportunity to turn to God.**

Haggai reminds us we need to turn to God when we experience difficulties.

**Haggai 2: 17**

17 'I smote you *and* every work of your hands with blasting wind, mildew and hail; yet you *did not come back* to Me,' declares the Lord.

# HAGGAI

## Lessons from the book of Haggai:

### **3. God blesses us not because we deserve it but because He chooses to.**

#### **Haggai 2: 19**

**19** 'Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree, it has not borne *fruit*. Yet from this day on I will bless *you*.' ”

**Every good and perfect gift comes from God.**

#### **James 1: 17**

**17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

**The only thing we deserve is death, but instead, we receive mercy, love, grace, and goodness. He gives us everything we need.**

#### **Rom. 6: 23**

**23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# HAGGAI

## Lessons from the book of Haggai:

### 4. The Lord keeps His promises.

When He says He will do something, He does it. He may not do it in the timing we expect it or in the way we would have chosen but His timing is always perfect.

#### **Haggai 2: 5**

**5** 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!'

#### **Haggai 2: 23**

**23** 'On that day,' declares the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make you like a signet *ring*, for I have chosen you,' " declares the Lord of hosts.

# ZECHARIAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	<b>Minor Prophets</b>				
480 - 470 BC	<b>Zechariah</b> 14 Chapters	Messiah is coming	The Jews are encouraged to complete the rebuilding of the temple. The promise of Messiah is repeated.	We must prepare for the coming of the LORD.	Jesus is prophesied as the Messiah, pierced for us.

# ZECHARIAH

## Outline of the Book of Zechariah

Introduction (1:1-6).

Zechariah's eight visions in the night (1:7 - 6:8).

Zechariah crowns Joshua, son of Jehoizadak, the high priest (6:9-15).

God rules on fasts, promises blessing for Jerusalem (7:1 - 8:23).

The Messiah is coming but will be rejected (9:1 - 11:17).

The Messiah will come again, be accepted, and will rule (12:1 - 14:21).

# ZECHARIAH

Zechariah ("Jehovah remembers") writes at the same time as Haggai, but he deals with the city of Jerusalem.

He reminds the people of God's displeasure with their fathers as the reason for former inflictions and bondage, an evident warning of what the city would yet suffer if they were "as their fathers."

His book reinforces the Jews with the hope that God would remember His promises to His people, even after all the time they spent outside the land.

# ZECHARIAH

The prophet, Zechariah, delivered his message to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah (Southern Kingdom, including Jerusalem) encouraging the rebuilding of the Temple.

Zechariah emphasized a tone of encouragement to the struggling Israelites trying to rebuild their temple.

The prophet used a simple structure of eight visions (Zech. 1: 1–6: 15), four messages (Zech. 7: 1–8: 23), and two oracles (Zech. 9: 1–14: 21) to anticipate the completion of the temple and, ultimately, the future reign of the Messiah from Jerusalem.



# ZECHARIAH

## Visions of Zechariah

1. A vision of horses (Zechariah 1: 7–17), which teaches about the merciful way the Lord will deal with Jerusalem.
2. A vision of four horns and four carpenters (Zechariah 1: 18–21), which is about the powers (horns) that scattered Judah and what will happen to these powers.
3. A vision of the man with a measuring line (Zechariah 2), which testifies of the Lord's protective power over His people.
4. A vision of the high priest (Zechariah 3), which symbolizes how Judah can overcome Satan and be cleansed through the power of Jesus Christ ("the Branch" in v. 8).

# ZECHARIAH

## Visions of Zechariah

5. A vision of a lampstand and olive trees (Zechariah 4), which symbolizes how the Lord would give power to His people by His Holy Spirit.
6. A vision of a flying scroll (Zechariah 5: 1–4), which taught that those who were dishonest in the land would be condemned.
7. A vision of a woman in a basket (Zechariah 5: 5–11), which testifies that wickedness would be removed from the people.
8. A vision of four chariots (Zechariah 6: 1–8), which symbolizes spreading the Lord's power over the whole earth.

# ZECHARIAH

## The 4 messages in Zechariah:

**Chapter 7: 1–7** - Do you fast for yourself or for God.

**Chapter 7: 8–14** - Do you listen to God? What happened when Israel did not?

**Chapter 8: 1–17** - What God will do; what they must do

**Chapter 8: 18–23** – Description of the future feasting

# ZECHARIAH

## Oracles of Zachariah

1. The oracle concerning God's  
Sovereignty (Zech. 9 - 14)

1a. Oracle concerning the nations  
(Zech. 9-11)

1b. Oracle concerning Israel (Zech. 12-14)

# ZECHARIAH

Zechariah refers to **the Messiah**:

1. "Listen, O high priest Joshua...I am going to bring My Servant, the Branch...seven eyes on that one Stone...I will remove the sin of this land in a single day." (Zechariah 3:8,9)
2. " ...Joshua ...Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Here is the Man whose name is The Branch, and He will branch out from His place and build the Temple of the Lord.'" (Zechariah 6:11-12)
3. "Rejoice greatly...your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zechariah 9:9)
4. "...for His flock, the house of Judah...will come the Cornerstone, from Him the tent peg, ...the battle bow, ...every ruler." (Zechariah 10:3,4)

# ZECHARIAH

The Book of Zechariah teaches that salvation may be obtained by all. The last chapter depicts peoples from all over the world coming to worship God, who desires that all people follow Him.

Zechariah teaches that God desires that all people worship Him and accepts those who do, regardless of their national or political expressions.

Zechariah preached that God is sovereign over this world. His visions of the future indicate that God sees all that will happen.

The depictions of God's intervention in the world teach that, ultimately, He will bring human events to the end He chooses. He does not eliminate the individual's freedom to follow God or rebel; but holds people responsible for the choices they make.

In the last chapter, even the forces of nature respond to God's control.

# ZECHARIAH

## Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

### 1. God is faithful

People give up on marriages and relationships. We give up on our dreams and on our resolutions. We give up on our work and sometimes on our faith.

**God never gives up on us!**

He is ready to bless us again with His presence when we begin to seek Him.

**Zech. 1: 3**

**3** “Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Return to Me,” declares the Lord of hosts, “that I may return to you,” says the Lord of hosts.

# ZECHARIAH

## Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

### 2. What God requires from his people

2a. God does great things for us because he loves us so much. There is an expressed expectation of what he requires from his people.

#### **Zech. 7: 9-10**

**9** “Thus has the Lord of hosts said, ‘Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother;

**10** and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.’



# ZECHARIAH

## Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

### **2. What God requires from his people**

#### **2b. We are to render true judgment.**

That means we examine all the facts — not just the ones we like.

#### **2c. We are to show kindness.**

That means we stop being so harsh with those whose viewpoints are different from ours and instead we are always tender to everyone.

# ZECHARIAH

## Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

### 2. What God requires from his people

#### 2d. We are to show mercy.

One of the most profound expressions of mercy is forgiveness.

#### 2e. We are to avoid oppression.

- i. **Widows** and **orphans** have little power. They are often devalued and ignored.
- ii. **Strangers** are viewed with suspicion or distrust. We must be those who protect and help them.
- iii. The **poor** are all around us. They have always been ignored or blamed for their condition.

# ZECHARIAH

## Lessons from the book of Zechariah:

**2. What God requires from his people**

**2f. We are never to conspire or dream of evil for one another.**

It's easy to do and feels natural when we have been hurt or strongly disagree with someone; but we must never do it. Asking God to help us overcome these feelings and thoughts is essential.

# ZECHARIAH

1. God expects sincere worship and moral living of us in our Christian walk of life.
2. Zechariah's example of breaking through national prejudice reminds us to reach out into all areas of our society. We must extend God's invitation of salvation to people of all national origins, languages, races, and cultures.
3. Salvation is only available through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, who died in our place to atone for sin. If we reject that sacrifice, there is no other sacrifice through which we can be reconciled to God. There is no other name under heaven by which men are saved.

## **Acts 4: 12**

**12** "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

4. There is no time to lose; today is the day of salvation.

## **2 Cor. 6: 2**

**2** for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation"—

# MALACHI

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	<b>Minor Prophets</b>				
433 - 424 BC	<b>Malachi</b> 4 Chapters	Ritualism rebuked	The nation is rebuked for their lack of love for God and their coldhearted indifference to Him.	Serve God as if your life depended on it.	Jesus is the Son of Righteousness, who brings healing.

# MALACHI

## OUTLINE OF MALACHI

### **I. God's Compassion for Israel, 1:1-5**

- A. His Compassion Declared, 1:1-2a
- B. His Compassion Doubted, 1:2b
- C. His Compassion Demonstrated, 1:3-5

### **II. God's Complaint Against Israel, 1:6-3:15**

- A. Cheating, 1:6-14
- B. Unfaithfulness, 2:1-9
- C. Spiritually Mixed Marriages, 2:10-12
- D. Divorce, 2:13-16
- E. Impiety and Impertinence, 2:17
- F. Parenthesis: The Coming of John the Baptist, 3:1-6
- G. Robbery, 3:7-12
- H. Arrogance, 3:13-15

### **III. God's Condemnation of the People, 3:16-4:6**

- A. The Ungodly People, 3:16-18
- B. The Nature of God's Judgment, 4:1-6

# MALACHI

First, Malachi wanted to affirm to the Israelites that Yahweh's love for them and their covenant relationship with Him were still intact (Mal. 1:2–5).

Secondly, because this relationship was still intact, Malachi wants to call the Israelites into account for their violations of this relationship.

Third, Malachi's calling to account was intended to elicit repentance and obedience.

Finally, Malachi sought to remind the people that their repentance and obedience were prerequisites to divine blessing and preparation for the coming of a divine messenger.

# MALACHI

Malachi ("My messenger") shows us the miserably self-complacent condition of the Jews who had returned from the captivity.

Their energy had very soon deteriorated into a state of callous indifference to the claims of God, a state of self-pleasing. It is a deeply pleading word from God, in which He reproves their gross contempt for Him, expressed in various ways.



# MALACHI

God showed the people through Malachi they were falling short and in danger of hurting themselves and others because there was corruption in the priesthood and the people had become spiritually disinterested.

# MALACHI

The people of Judah began to be exiled from the Promised Land in 605 BC, returning from Babylon seventy years later.

By the time of Malachi, they had been back in the land for more than a hundred years and were looking for the blessings they expected to receive when they returned. Though the temple had been rebuilt, the fervor of those early returning Israelites gave way to a thorough apathy for the things of God. This led to rampant corruption among the priesthood and a spiritual lethargy among the people.

Malachi came along at a time when the people were struggling to believe that God loved them. The people focused on their unfortunate circumstances and refused to account for their own sinful deeds. So, God pointed the finger back at them, and through Malachi, God told the people where they had fallen short of their covenant with Him.

If the people hoped to see changes, they needed to take responsibility for their own actions and serve God faithfully, according to the promise their fathers had made to God on Mount Sinai all those years before.

# MALACHI

Throughout Israel's history, the nation failed, and God called His people back to Himself. Each time, Israel would fail again, prompting the cycle to begin again.

God's final word of the Old Testament concerns judgment for sin and testifies to our inability to love Him without the help of His grace.

Malachi's call prompts us to live faithfully before God and offers hope that God is not yet through with extending mercy to His people.

## **Mal. 3: 1**

**1** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts.

## **Mal. 4: 2**

**2** "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

## **Mal. 4: 5-6**

**5** "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

**6** "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

# MALACHI

God's warning through Malachi tells the people to turn back to Him.

## **Mal.1: 1**

**1** The oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi.

## **Mal. 1: 6**

**6** “ ‘A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?’ says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’

# MALACHI

Malachi wrote the words of the Lord to God's chosen people who had gone astray, especially the priests who had turned from the Lord.

Priests were not treating the sacrifices they were to make to God seriously.

Animals with blemishes were being sacrificed, even though the law demanded animals without defect.

The men of Judah were dealing treacherously with the wives of their youth and wondering why God would not accept their sacrifices.

Also, people were not tithing as they should have been.

# MALACHI

## Mal. 3: 1-6

1 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the **Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant,** in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.

2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.

3 “He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine **them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.**

4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old **and as in former years.**

5 “Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the **sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn** aside the alien and do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts.

6 “For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

**Mal. 3: 1-6** is a prophecy concerning John the Baptist. He was the Messenger of the Lord sent to prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. John preached repentance and baptized in the name of the Lord, thus preparing the way for Jesus’ first coming.

# MALACHI

## Lessons in the book of Malachi:

### 1. God is unchanging

From love, to anger, to justice, God remains true to His character.

He begins on a note of how much He loves Israel. A love that caused Him to participate in a covenant relationship with them. He explains how He chose to love, one of the sons of Isaac and thereby an entire line of people. He called them His own and set them apart. He loved them.

# MALACHI

## Lessons in the book of Malachi:

**1a. He is a righteous God."**

**1b. He has loved you and me with an everlasting love...**

**Malachi is an exceptional book that brings out all the contrasting attributes of God, while presenting a God who remains true to the essence of His unchanging nature.**



# MALACHI

## Lessons in the book of Malachi:

### **2. The names of God evoke different responses.**

Throughout Malachi we read about different names given to God.

**2a. Father (Mal. 1: 6)**

**2b. Master (Mal. 1: 6)**

**2c. Lord of Hosts (Mal. 1: 11; 2: 2)**

**2d. Great King (Mal. 1: 14)**

**2e. Messenger of the Covenant {This refers to Jesus} (Mal. 3: 1)**

**2f. Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4: 2)**

# MALACHI

## Lessons in the book of Malachi:

### **3. God answers all our questions.**

Malachi is written as a conversation between God and man. In those conversations, one of the strange things that recur is when God makes a straightforward statement, it is followed by man's counter-argumentative question to which, most times, God responds.

They didn't honor or comprehend what God had done for them, nor had they looked at their own lives and reflected on God's accusations.

# MALACHI

## Lessons in the book of Malachi:

### **4. Pay attention to and obey God's word.**

We must heed God's word. Listening involves both hearing and obeying.

Sometimes God uses His word to instruct and correct us. Be watchful for those moments and pay attention.

Let us pray and ask for God's help to stay away from empty questions and embrace His love and mercy.