

HAGGAI

I. Person of Haggai

A. His name

It comes from the Hebrew word $\lambda \square$ meaning "festival" and has an adjectival ending. Thus it means "festal one." He may have been given this name because he was born on a feast day.

B. His office

He was a prophet 1:1; 2:1, 10,20; Ezra 5:1; 6:14

C. His time

He prophesied in 520 B.C. when Darius I was King of Persia. His prophecies covered about a 15 week period. (1:1; 2:1,10,20), and were given on Aug. 29 (1:1), Oct. 17 (2:1) and Dec. 18 (2:10,20).

D. His messages

1. His first message

He condemned the Lord's people for their indifference toward building the temple and informed them that their crop failure and lack of water and dew were chastisements from the Lord because of it. He urged them to build the temple because that was the only way to remove God's chastisements from them. They obeyed his message.

2. His second message 2:1-9

He consoled the Lord's people because this temple was inferior to Solomon's temple and informed them that the Lord would help them build this temple and that this temple would be more glorious than Solomon's temple in the future.

3. His third message 2:10-19

He predicted that the crop failure and lack of dew and water would cease and that from the time he made this prediction onward the Lord would bless them with good crops and fruit from their trees.

4. His fourth message 2:20-23

He predicted that when the Lord overthrows Kingdoms and destroys their strength, He will keep Zerubbabel safe.

E. Extra-biblical accounts of the circumstances of his life

1. Dorotheus and Epiphanius

They say that Haggai came from Babylon to Jerusalem when he was quite a young man, and that he survived the rebuilding of the temple, and was buried in honor near the burial-place of the priests.