

~HAGGAI, BOOK OF (553)

.. Writership And Canonicity

.. Style

.. Date And Circumstances

.. Messages Of Lasting Benefit

.. Highlights Of Haggai

- **An inspired book of the Hebrew Scriptures listed among the so-called minor prophets. It consists of four messages from Yehowah to Jews that had returned from Babylonian exile, urging them to finish rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem.**
- **Also being prophetic, the book foretold such things as the filling of Yehowah's house with glory and the overthrow of human kingdoms.**
- **For this is what Yehowah of armies has said; Yet once, it is a little while, and I am rocking the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry ground. ([Haggai 2:6](#))**
- **And I will rock all the nations, and the desirable things of all the nations must come in, and I will fill this house with glory, Yehowah of armies has said. ([Haggai 2:7](#))**
- **Say to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, I am rocking the heavens and the earth. ([Haggai 2:21](#))**
- **And I shall certainly overthrow the throne of kingdoms and annihilate the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and I will overthrow the chariot and its riders, and the horses and their riders will certainly come down, each one by the sword of his brother. ([Haggai 2:22](#))**

.. Writership And Canonicity

- **The writer was Haggai the prophet, who personally delivered each message found in the book.**
- **In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, saying; ([Haggai 1:1](#))**

- In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet, saying; (**Haggai 2:1**)
- In the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of Yehowah occurred to Haggai the prophet, saying; (**Haggai 2:10**)
- And the word of Yehowah proceeded to occur a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying; (**Haggai 2:20**)
- While most of the ancient Scripture catalogs do not list the book of **Haggai** by name, it is evidently included in their references to the twelve Minor Prophets, the number 12 thus being complete.
- The Jews have never questioned its right to a place among the Hebrew Scriptures, and the canonicity of the book is definitely established by the quotation appearing at;
- For this is what Yehowah of armies has said; Yet once, it is a little while, and I am rocking the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry ground. (**Haggai 2:6**)
- At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, saying; Yet once more I will set in commotion not only the earth but also the heaven. (**Hebrews 12:26**)
- Say to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, I am rocking the heavens and the earth. (**Haggai 2:21**)

See Also HAGGAI

.. Style

- The language is simple and the meaning is made abundantly clear. Thought-provoking questions are sometimes posed.
- Is it the time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house is waste? (**Haggai 1:4**)
- There was a looking for much, but here there was just a little, and you have brought it into the house, and I blew upon it, for

what reason? Is the utterance of Yehowah of armies. By reason of my house that is waste, while you are on the run, each one in behalf of his own house. (**Haggai 1:9**)

- Who is there among you that is remaining over who saw this house in its former glory? And how are you people seeing it now? Is it not, in comparison with that, as nothing in your eyes? (**Haggai 2:3**)
- If a man carries holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and he actually touches with his skirt bread or stew or wine or oil or any sort of food, will it become holy? And the priests proceeded to answer and say; No! (**Haggai 2:12**)
- And Haggai went on to say; If someone unclean by a deceased soul touches any of these things, will it become unclean? In turn the priests answered and said; It will become unclean. (**Haggai 2:13**)
- Is there as yet the seed in the grain pit? And as yet, the vine and the fig tree and the pomegranate tree and the olive tree, it has not borne, has it? From this day I shall bestow blessing. (**Haggai 2:19**)
- The book of **Haggai** contains strong reproof, encouragement, and hope-inspiring prophecy. The divine name, Yehowah, appears 35 times in its 38 verses, and it is clearly shown that the messages were from God, Haggai serving as His commissioned messenger.
- And Haggai the messenger of Yehowah went on to say to the people according to the messengers commission from Yehowah, saying; I am with you people, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Haggai 1:13**)

.. Date And Circumstances

- The four messages recorded by **Haggai** were delivered at Jerusalem within about a four-month period in the second year of Persian King Darius Hystaspis, **520 B.C.E**, the book apparently being completed in **520 B.C.E**.
- In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the

governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, saying; (**Haggai 1:1**)

- In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet, saying; (**Haggai 2:1**)
- In the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of Yehowah occurred to Haggai the prophet, saying; (**Haggai 2:10**)
- And the word of Yehowah proceeded to occur a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying; (**Haggai 2:20**)
- Zechariah was prophesying for the same purpose during Haggai's prophetic activity.
- And Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the grandson of Iddo the prophet prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and in Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them. (**Ezra 5:1**)
- It was then that Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jehozadak got up and started to rebuild the house of God, which was in Jerusalem, and with them there were God's prophets giving them aid. (**Ezra 5:2**)
- And the older men of the Jews were building and making progress under the prophesying of **Haggai** the prophet and Zechariah the grandson of Iddo, and they built and finished it due to the order of the God of Israel and due to the order of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes the king of Persia. (**Ezra 6:14**)

.. Messages Of Lasting Benefit

- Among other things, the book of Haggai engenders faith in Yehowah, essential to God's servants. It shows that God is with his people
- And Haggai the messenger of Yehowah went on to say to the people according to the messengers commission from Yehowah, saying; I am with you people, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Haggai 1:13**)

- But now be strong, O Zerubbabel, is the utterance of Yehowah, and be strong, O Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest. And be strong, all you people of the land, is the utterance of Yehowah, and work. For I am with you people, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies ([Haggai 2:4](#))
- Remember the thing that I concluded with you people when you came forth from Egypt, and when my spirit was standing in among you. Do not be afraid. ([Haggai 2:5](#))
- It urges them to put his interests first in life.
- This is what Yehowah of armies has said; As regards this people, they have said; The time has not come, the time of the house of Yehowah, for it to be built. ([Haggai 1:2](#))
- And the word of Yehowah continued to come by means of Haggai the prophet, saying; ([Haggai 1:3](#))
- Is it the time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house is waste? ([Haggai 1:4](#))
- And now this is what Yehowah of armies has said; Set your heart upon your ways. ([Haggai 1:5](#))
- You have sown much seed, but there is a bringing of little in. There is an eating, but it is not to satisfaction. There is a drinking, but not to the point of getting intoxicated. There is a putting on of clothes, but it is not with anyone's getting warm, and he that is hiring himself out is hiring himself out for a bag having holes. ([Haggai 1:6](#))
- This is what Yehowah of armies has said; Set your heart upon your ways. ([Haggai 1:7](#))
- Go up to the mountain, and you must bring in lumber. And build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and I may be glorified, Yehowah has said. ([Haggai 1:8](#))
- Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you. ([Matthew 6:33](#))

- The book makes clear the fact that mere formalistic worship does not please Yehowah.
- In the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of Yehowah occurred to Haggai the prophet, saying; ([Haggai 2:10](#))
- This is what Yehowah of armies has said; Ask, please, the priests as to the law, saying; ([Haggai 2:11](#))
- If a man carries holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and he actually touches with his skirt bread or stew or wine or oil or any sort of food, will it become holy? And the priests proceeded to answer and say; No! ([Haggai 2:12](#))
- And Haggai went on to say; If someone unclean by a deceased soul touches any of these things, will it become unclean? In turn the priests answered and said; It will become unclean. ([Haggai 2:13](#))
- Accordingly Haggai answered and said; That is how this people is, and that is how this nation is before me, is the utterance of Yehowah, and that is how all the work of their hands is, and whatever they present there. It is unclean. ([Haggai 2:14](#))
- But now, please, set your heart on this from this day and forward, before there was the placing of a stone upon a stone in the temple of Yehowah. ([Haggai 2:15](#))
- From when those things happened to be, one came to a heap of twenty measures, and it proved to be ten, one came to the press vat to draw off fifty measures of the wine trough, and it proved to be twenty. ([Haggai 2:16](#))
- I struck you people with scorching and with mildew and with hail, even all the work of your hands, and there was no one with you turning to me, is the utterance of Yehowah. ([Haggai 2:17](#))
- And Yehowah says; For the reason that this people have come near with their mouth, and they have glorified me merely with their lips, and they have removed their heart itself far away from me, and their fear toward me becomes men's commandment that is being taught. ([Isaiah 29:13](#))

- **Therefore here I am, the One that will act wonderfully again with this people, in a wonderful manner and with something wonderful, and the wisdom of their wise men must perish, and the very understanding of their discreet men will conceal itself. (Isaiah 29:14)**
- **You hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about you, when he said; (Matthew 15:7)**
- **This people honors me with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from me. (Matthew 15:8)**
- **It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines. (Matthew 15:9)**
- **But that faithful actions harmonizing with the divine will are what result in blessing.**
- **Set your heart, please, on this from this day and forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the temple of Yehowah was laid, set your heart on this: (Haggai 2:18)**
- **Is there as yet the seed in the grain pit? And as yet, the vine and the fig tree and the pomegranate tree and the olive tree, it has not borne, has it? From this day I shall bestow blessing. (Haggai 2:19)**
- **The blessing of Yehowah, that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it. (Proverbs 10:22)**
- **The writer of the Bible book of Hebrews applies;**
- **For this is what Yehowah of armies has said; Yet once, it is a little while, and I am rocking the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry ground. (Haggai 2:6)**
- **As having a greater fulfillment in connection with God's Kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ.**
- **At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, saying; Yet once more I will set in commotion not only the earth but also the heaven. (Hebrews 12:26)**

- Now the expression; Yet once more. Signifies the removal of the things being shaken as things that have been made, in order, that the things not being shaken may remain. (**Hebrews 12:27**)
- Wherefore, seeing that we are to receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us continue to have undeserved kindness, through which we may acceptably render God sacred service with godly fear and awe. (**Hebrews 12:28**)
- For our God is also a consuming fire. (**Hebrews 12:29**)

· Highlights Of Haggai

- Four messages designed to motivate the Jews to move ahead with the rebuilding of Yehowah's temple.
- Written in Jerusalem 17 years after the Jews returned from exile, when temple building had not yet been completed.
- Message to people living in paneled houses, while Yehowah's house lies in ruins.
- In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, saying;
- In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, saying; (**Haggai 1:1**)
- This is what Yehowah of armies has said; As regards this people, they have said; The time has not come, the time of the house of Yehowah, for it to be built. (**Haggai 1:2**)
- And the word of Yehowah continued to come by means of Haggai the prophet, saying; (**Haggai 1:3**)
- Is it the time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house is waste? (**Haggai 1:4**)

- **And now this is what Yehowah of armies has said; Set your heart upon your ways. (Haggai 1:5)**
- **You have sown much seed, but there is a bringing of little in. There is an eating, but it is not to satisfaction. There is a drinking, but not to the point of getting intoxicated. There is a putting on of clothes, but it is not with anyone's getting warm, and he that is hiring himself out is hiring himself out for a bag having holes. (Haggai 1:6)**
- **This is what Yehowah of armies has said; Set your heart upon your ways. (Haggai 1:7)**
- **Go up to the mountain, and you must bring in lumber. And build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and I may be glorified, Yehowah has said. (Haggai 1:8)**
- **There was a looking for much, but here there was just a little, and you have brought it into the house, and I blew upon it, for what reason? Is the utterance of Yehowah of armies. By reason of my house that is waste, while you are on the run, each one in behalf of his own house. (Haggai 1:9)**
- **Therefore over you the heavens kept back their dew, and the earth itself kept back its yield. (Haggai 1:10)**
- **And I kept calling for dryness upon the earth, and upon the mountains, and upon the grain, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon what the ground would bring forth, and upon earthling man, and upon domestic animal, and upon all the toil of the hands. (Haggai 1:11)**
- **And Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, and all the remaining ones of the people began to listen to the voice of Yehowah their God, and to the words of Haggai the prophet, as Yehowah their God had sent him, and the people began to fear because of Yehowah. (Haggai 1:12)**
- **And Haggai the messenger of Yehowah went on to say to the people according to the messengers commission from Yehowah, saying; I am with you people, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Haggai 1:13)**

- **And Yehowah proceeded to rouse up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, and the spirit of all the remaining ones of the people, and they began to enter in and to do the work in the house of Yehowah of armies their God. (Haggai 1:14)**
- **It was on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king. (Haggai 1:15)**
- **To those feeling that it is not the time for rebuilding the temple Yehowah makes clear that neglect of this work has led to the withdrawal of his blessing, so that harvests are poor and hired laborers receive meager wages.**
- **Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the rest of the people respond favorably, they are promised that Yehowah will be with them in the temple rebuilding work, then temple work starts.**
- **Proclamation that Yehowah will fill his house with glory.**
- **In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet, saying; (Haggai 2:1)**
- **Say, please, to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, and to the remaining ones of the people, saying; (Haggai 2:2)**
- **Who is there among you that is remaining over who saw this house in its former glory? And how are you people seeing it now? Is it not, in comparison with that, as nothing in your eyes? (Haggai 2:3)**
- **But now be strong, O Zerubbabel, is the utterance of Yehowah, and be strong, O Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest. And be strong, all you people of the land, is the utterance of Yehowah, and work. For I am with you people, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies (Haggai 2:4)**
- **Remember the thing that I concluded with you people when you came forth from Egypt, and when my spirit was standing in among you. Do not be afraid. (Haggai 2:5)**

- **For this is what Yehowah of armies has said; Yet once, it is a little while, and I am rocking the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry ground. (Haggai 2:6)**
- **And I will rock all the nations, and the desirable things of all the nations must come in, and I will fill this house with glory, Yehowah of armies has said. (Haggai 2:7)**
- **The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies. (Haggai 2:8)**
- **Greater will the glory of this later house become than that of the former, Yehowah of armies has said. And in this place I shall give peace, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies. (Haggai 2:9)**
- **In the view of aged ones who had seen the glory of Solomon's temple, the new structure seems like nothing.**
- **Yehowah urges Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the rest of the people to be strong, not disheartened, to continue with the work, assuring them that the glory of the rebuilt temple will surpass that of the former one.**
- **People are shown that neglect of temple rebuilding has made them and all their work unclean before God.**
- **In the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of Yehowah occurred to Haggai the prophet, saying; (Haggai 2:10)**
- **This is what Yehowah of armies has said; Ask, please, the priests as to the law, saying; (Haggai 2:11)**
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- Yehowah, and that is how all the work of their hands is, and whatever they present there. It is unclean. ([Haggai 2:14](#))**
- **But now, please, set your heart on this from this day and forward, before there was the placing of a stone upon a stone in the temple of Yehowah. ([Haggai 2:15](#))**
 - **From when those things happened to be, one came to a heap of twenty measures, and it proved to be ten, one came to the press vat to draw off fifty measures of the wine trough, and it proved to be twenty. ([Haggai 2:16](#))**
 - **I struck you people with scorching and with mildew and with hail, even all the work of your hands, and there was no one with you turning to me, is the utterance of Yehowah. ([Haggai 2:17](#))**
 - **Set your heart, please, on this from this day and forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the temple of Yehowah was laid, set your heart on this: ([Haggai 2:18](#))**
 - **Is there as yet the seed in the grain pit? And as yet, the vine and the fig tree and the pomegranate tree and the olive tree, it has not borne, has it? From this day I shall bestow blessing. ([Haggai 2:19](#))**
 - **Priests answer questions indicating that holiness cannot be transferred but uncleanness can.**
 - **Yehowah encourages the people by informing that from the day the temple foundation is laid Yehowah will bestow his blessing, ending the poor harvests.**
 - **Message to Zerubbabel about Yehowah's rocking heavens and earth.**
 - **And the word of Yehowah proceeded to occur a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying; ([Haggai 2:20](#))**
 - **Say to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, I am rocking the heavens and the earth. ([Haggai 2:21](#))**
 - **And I shall certainly overthrow the throne of kingdoms and**

annihilate the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and I will overthrow the chariot and its riders, and the horses and their riders will certainly come down, each one by the sword of his brother. ([Haggai 2:22](#))

- **In that day, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies, I shall take you, O Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, my servant, is the utterance of Yehowah, and I shall certainly set you as a seal ring, because you are the one whom I have chosen, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies. ([Haggai 2:23](#))**
- **When Yehowah rocks heavens and earth, even overthrowing the throne of kingdoms, the enemies will turn their weapons against themselves, thus no power will succeed in blocking temple rebuilding.**
- **Yehowah will make Zerubbabel like his own seal ring, thus guaranteeing that his position will be secure regardless of what may happen.**