Haggai

1. The Summary

After the 70 years of captivity about 50,000 Jews returned to their own land and began to rebuild the Temple. But before they had laid the foundation their enemies were successful in stopping the work. Nothing further was done for 15 years. During that time a new king, Darius, who had a favorable attitude toward the Jews ascended to the Persian throne. And, under the preaching of Haggai and Zechariah, work was resumed and the Temple completed in four years (520-516 BC). The wall of Jerusalem was built about 70 years later by Nehemiah.

2. The Author

Haggai (a contemporary of Zechariah)

3. The Date

Second year of King Darius of Persia (520 BC)
Returned from captivity under Zerubbabel in 536 BC
Haggai’s prophecy covered a period of less than 4 months

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi belong to the period after the return from captivity – the period covered in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. Haggai and Zechariah aided in building the Temple. Malachi is thought to have been associated with Nehemiah nearly 100 years later, in rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem.
4. The Theme

“Encouragement to Resume the Rebuilding of the Temple”

5. The Key Verses

1:4-8

6. The Outline

I. The Charge to Resume Building 1:1-15
II. The Prophecy Concerning the Future Glory of the Temple 2:1-9
III. The Promise of Blessing Upon Building the Temple 2:10-19
IV. The Prophecy of the Final Overthrow of Gentile World Power 2:20-23

7. Highlights
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GLS
Zechariah

1. The Summary

Like Haggai, Zechariah encouraged the people to complete the unfinished Temple (Ezra 4:23-5:1; 6:14; Zech. 1:16; 4:8-9 etc.). While Haggai sought to arouse the people to the necessity of the outward task of rebuilding the Temple, Zechariah also sought to bring about a spiritual change in the people. Zechariah also revealed to his people future events concerning Gentile world powers and especially the two advents of Christ (3:8; 9:9; 14:4).

2. The Author

Zechariah
There are at least 28 people with this name mentioned in the Old Testament. This Zechariah was the son of Berechiah and grandson of Iddo.

3. The Date

Zechariah began his prophetic ministry two months after Haggai. Their preaching led to the completion of the Temple in 516 BC. Zechariah prophesied longer than Haggai. His prophecy continued for about two years – the last dated prophecy being in November or December 518 BC (7:1).

Perhaps after 480 BC because of his reference to Javan (Greece)

4. The Theme

“Encouragement to Continue the Temple and Prophecies Concerning Two Advents of the Messiah”

5. The Key Verses

1:16; 9:9-10
6. The Outline

I. Addresses during the building of the Temple 1-8
   A. Eight Visions 1-6
   B. Four Messages 7-8

II. Addresses after Completion of the Temple 9-14
   A. Coming King 9-10
   B. Coming King Rejected 11
   C. Coming King Coming Again in Triumph 12-14

7. The Highlights
**ZECHARIAH**

**ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONTINUE THE TEMPLE AND PROPHECIES CONCERNING TWO ADVENTS OF MESSIAH**

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GLS

125
Malachi

1. The Summary

A remnant had returned from captivity (536 BC). Under the leadership of Haggai and Zechariah they had rebuilt the Temple (520-516 BC). Then 60 years later (457 BC) Ezra came to help reestablish the nation. Then 13 years later (444 BC) Nehemiah came and rebuilt the wall. In Malachi’s time the Jews had been back in the land about 100 years. They had been cured of their idolatry, but they were neglecting the House of God. The priests had become lax and degenerate and sacrifices were inferior. Tithes were neglected. The people had reverted to their old practice of intermarrying with idolatrous neighbors (Ezra 9). They had settled down in a lethargic state of mind to await the coming of the Promised Messiah. Malachi was sent to reprove them for neglecting and abusing the worship of the Temple. He assured them that the Messiah would come but that it would mean judgment for them.

2. The Author

Malachi
He was the last of the Old Testament prophets.

3. The Date

The exact date is not known. It is generally accepted that Malachi lived nearly 100 years after Haggai and Zechariah and that he was associated with Ezra and Nehemiah in their reforms. The date is probably between 443-396 BC. The Temple was completed because sacrifices were being made (1:7-10; 3:8).

4. The Theme

“Israel Rebuked for Neglecting and Abusing the Worship of the Lord”
5. The Key Verses

1:1; 3:9

6. The Outline

I. The Sins of the Priests  1:1-2:9
II. The Sins of the People  2:10-3:15
III. The Faithful Few  3:16-4:6

7. Highlights
| 2:9 2:10 | THE SINS OF THE PRIESTS | In what way have we polluted You? 1:7  
In what way have we despised Your name? 1:6  
In what way have You loved us? 1:2 |
| 3:15 3:16 | THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE | What profit is it...? 3:14  
What have we spoken against You? 3:13  
In what way have we robbed You? 3:8  
In what way shall we return? 3:7  
In what way have we wearied Him? 2:17  
For what reason (doesn't the Lord regard our offering)? 2:14 |
| 4:6 | THE FAITHFUL FEW | You shall trample the wicked... 4:3  
But to you who fear My name 4:2  
They shall be Mine 3:17 |
Summary Review of Post-Exilic Period
Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Ezra – “Returns from Captivity under Zerubbabel and Ezra”
Nehemiah – “Rebuilding the Walls and Reviving the People”
Esther – “God’s Providence in Delivering the Jews from Total Destruction”

Haggai – “Encouragement to Resume the Rebuilding of the Temple”
Zechariah – “Encouragement to Continue the Temple and Prophecies Concerning Two Advents of the Messiah”
Malachi – “Israel Rebuked for Neglecting and Abusing the Worship of the Lord”

Zerubbabel led the first return from captivity in 536 BC. The Persian king, Cyrus, allowed the return to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. The work was stopped on the Temple due to opposition from the Samaritans.

Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the people to resume work on the Temple. They did and the Temple was completed and dedicated in 516 BC.

The events of Esther take place between chapters 6 and 7 of the book of Ezra. Ezra returned in 458 BC (This is the 2nd return), 58 years after the dedication of the Temple to reform the people.

Nehemiah returned in 444 BC (the 3rd return) to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. Those who returned with Zerubbabel had been in the land for almost 100 years (92). Nehemiah found that the Temple had been forsaken and people were violating the Sabbath. In addition, some of the Jews had married foreign women again.

Malachi prophesied about 100 years after Haggai and Zechariah (just after the walls were rebuilt). He was associated with Ezra and Nehemiah in their reforms. He rebuked the priests and the people for neglecting and abusing the worship of the Lord. Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets. It would be 400 years before God would speak to His people again.

1st return – Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple – 536 BC
2nd return – Ezra to reform the people – 458 BC
3rd return – Nehemiah to rebuild the walls – 444 BC
Malachi rebukes Israel for neglecting and abusing the worship of the Lord

Ezra revives the people again
Nehemiah returns to rebuild the walls

Ezra returns to revive the people spiritually

God delivers His people from total destruction

Temple completed
Haggai and Zechariah encourage Jews to resume work on the temple

Work is stopped for 15 years (535 BC – 520 BC)
Zerubbabel returns to rebuild the temple

Artaxerxes 464-424 BC

Ahasuerus 485-465 BC (Xerxes)

Darius 522-486 BC (Smerdis 522 BC)
(Cambyses 530-522 BC)

Cyrus 539-530 BC