

Haggai and Zechariah

- HAGGAI** My name is Haggai.
ZECHARIAH My name is Zechariah.
HAGGAI I am an old man.
ZECHARIAH I am a young man.
HAGGAI My name means "festive."
ZECHARIAH My name means "God remembered."
HAGGAI I was born in Judah. As a child, I was among those taken captive by the Babylonians. I spent 66 years in captivity.
ZECHARIAH I was born a captive and spent my whole life in exile until I was released along with many others to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.
HAGGAI We both prophesied in the Sixth Century B.C. to the Jewish people who had returned from captivity to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.
ZECHARIAH We encouraged them to get on with the work after they had quit due to opposition.
HAGGAI I prophesied first, from August through December in the year 520 B.C.
ZECHARIAH I began prophesying in October of that year and delivered most of my prophecies during the next two years. My final prophecies were delivered later, after the temple was completed.
HAGGAI We both stressed holy, God-centered living in anticipation of God's grace and blessing.
ZECHARIAH We reminded the people that their faithfulness to God would be rewarded in the end.
HAGGAI What can you expect to get out of this study?
ZECHARIAH What can 21st Century people learn from 6th Century B.C. prophets?
HAGGAI God hates spiritual apathy. He wants you to yield to Him completely.
ZECHARIAH God wants to cleanse your life from sin.
HAGGAI God wants you to serve Him faithfully and to complete whatever task He sets before you.
ZECHARIAH God is preparing a kingdom for you to enjoy.
HAGGAI And there's more.
ZECHARIAH You'll see.
HAGGAI We hope you enjoy and benefit from this study.
ZECHARIAH May God bless you as you seek to hear His message to you today.

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Haggai

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Prioritizing

- Write these words in the corners of the chalkboard, one word in each corner: career; God; church; family.
- Ask the class to agree on the best order of these priorities. For example, they may agree that the best order is God, family, church, career.
- Ask members to think about their own lives and answer this question silently: Do your actions show that you are following that order of priorities, or do your actions show that another order is really true in your life?
- Have someone lead the class in prayer for the study of this lesson on making God's will our number one priority.

Exploring God's Word

Dialogue

- In advance, enlist two persons to prepare and present the dialogue on page 4 (give each a copy of that page). Have each print in large block letters on a sheet of paper the name of the prophet whose lines they are reading. Have them either wear or hold the name in front of themselves to help the rest of the class fix in their minds which prophet each represents.
- Give each person paper and pencil. Have them take notes during the dialogue. After the dialogue, ask members to share what they remember.

Time line

- Display the time line (Item 2) and lead the class to read through it to gain a frame of reference for the events taking place during the time that Haggai and Zechariah prophesied. Leave the time line displayed during the study.

Group assignments

- Divide the class into four groups. Give each group paper and pencil and one of the following assignments (cut apart Item 1).
NOTE: Group One will also need some Bible study helps, such as a Bible dictionary and Bible commentary. Be sure to put into this group people who are skillful in

using such helps. They will need to work quickly to keep up with the other groups.

GROUP ONE

1. Read Haggai 1:1.
2. Research these four persons and prepare a brief report on each: King Darius; Haggai; Zerubbabel; Joshua.
3. Tell in a few sentences how the four relate to one another.

GROUP TWO

1. Read Haggai 1:2-6.
2. Answer these questions, based on the passage:
 - How did the people feel about rebuilding the temple?
 - On what had the people focused their time, energy and resources?
 - How had God disciplined the people to get their attention?
3. Discuss:
 - What reveals the personal priorities of people today?
 - Why do people often put other interests ahead of God?
 - What steps can we take to make God's will our first priority in life?

GROUP THREE

1. Read Haggai 2:6-9.
2. Share this information:
 - This message was delivered on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, an annual festival during which the people lived in tents to remind them how God provided for their needs during the 40 years of wilderness wandering.

- "Desire of all nations" may mean "the desired *things* of all nations," that is, the treasures and wealth of those nations. These would be brought as offerings to the temple.
- Shortly after this prophecy, King Darius decreed that the Persian Empire would finance the cost of rebuilding the temple.
- 3. Discuss: How does God sometimes use pagan people, nations, and enterprises to bless His people and expand His kingdom? Think of several specific current examples.

GROUP FOUR

1. Read Haggai 2:18-19.
2. Explain: The people's commitment to renew their work on the temple brought God's promise of blessing, to begin immediately, "from this day on."
3. Testify: Have volunteers from your group give personal testimonies of how God has blessed them in the past when they committed to give His will priority in their lives.
 - Allow groups 10 minutes to work. Then let each group share some information they learned and some insights from their discussion.

Wrapping It Up

- **God desires that we make His will the first priority in our lives. Are you ready to make that commitment today?**
- Lead the class in prayer.

Making It Personal

Group discussion

- Use the following questions to lead the class in a group discussion.
 - What keeps people from making God's will their first priority?
 - What keeps us from making God's will our first priority?
 - What steps could we take to remedy that?
 - What changes will we need to make in order to take those steps?
 - As a result of today's study, what specific action might you personally take during the next week?

Faith at Home

Write a bigger number 1 on a sheet of paper. Ask your family what that means to them. Lead them into a discussion of what may be number 1, of greatest priority, in the lives of people. Then ask them what they think is number 1 in your life and in your family. Ask them how your family could make God and His will number 1, your top priority.

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T I M E L I N E

- 538 B.C.** Cyrus released captives to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple
- 536 B.C.** Foundation completed under leadership of Zerubbabel; Samaritan opposition causes work shutdown
- 522 B.C.** Darius becomes king of Persia
- 520 B.C.** Darius' second year
Aug. 29 *Hagai's first message (1:1-11)*
Sept. 21 **Building resumes**
Oct. 17 *Hagai's second message (2:1-9)*
Oct.-Nov. *Zechariah's first message (1:1-6)*
Dec. 18 *Hagai's third message (2:10-19)*
Hagai's fourth message (2:20-23)
- 519 B.C.** Feb. 15 *Zechariah's visions (1:7—6:8)*
Feb. 16 **Crowning of Joshua (6:9-15)**
Dec. 7 *Zechariah's messages (7:1—8:23)*
- 516 B.C.** Mar. 12 **Dedication of the temple**
- ??? B.C.** *Zechariah's final prophecy*

