

# God's Masterwork, Volume Four An Invitation to Return — A Survey of Hosea-Malachi

Haggai: Persuasive Prophet of Priorities

A SURVEY OF HAGGAI



## The Heart of the Matter

The prophet Haggai is unique for two reasons: (1) he is the only person in all the Old Testament with the name Haggai; and (2) his is the only book in all the Bible containing only two chapters. But much more important, Haggai was God's spokesman sent to awaken and arouse the post-captivity Jews from their lethargy. He, with determined focus, pursued one major goal: to complete the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. He was a "get-it-done" leader, a highly motivated man who attacked indifference as the enemy it was. Haggai (and later Zechariah) was used by the Lord to afflict the comfortable, convincing them there was no excuse for delay. As all of us realize, Haggai's message is greatly needed in our me-first day of selfishness and indolence.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Getting Acquainted with the Man

Haggai ministered in Jerusalem shortly after the Babylonian exiles returned to the land. He carried with him a burden for rebuilding God's temple.

|               |           |                |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| Pre-Captivity | Captivity | Post-Captivity |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|

### 2. Becoming Familiar with the Book

The book of Haggai divides nicely into two chapters. In chapter 1, Haggai delivered a message of reproof. In chapter 2, Haggai delivered a message of encouragement and hope. And in both chapters, Haggai told the Jews to "consider" their ways.

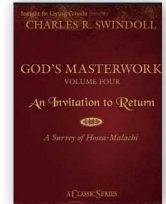


## Starting Your Journey

The timeless lesson of Haggai is expressed in a question: "What method does God use to arouse in His people a renewed interest in Himself?" The answer is fourfold: God uses spokespersons, God leads His people to personal evaluation, God allows His people to experience times of adversity, and God encourages His people.



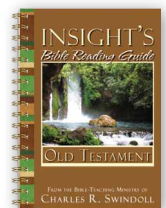
## Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork, Volume Four: An Invitation to Return - A Survey of Hosea-Malachi CD series



Insight's Old Testament Handbook: A Practical Look at Each Book by Insight for Living softcover book



Insight's Bible Reading Guide: Old Testament by Insight for Living spiral-bound book

To order any of these recommended resources, call 1-800-663-7639 or visit [insightforliving.ca](http://insightforliving.ca)

# HAGGAI

|                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
|                         | <p><b>First Message:</b></p> <p><b>Rebuild God's temple</b></p> <p><u>Rebuke</u></p> <p><u>Reflection</u></p> <p><u>Divine discipline</u></p> <p><u>Repentant response</u></p> <p><u>"I am with you"</u></p> <p>CHAPTER<br/>1</p>   | <p><b>Second, Third, and Fourth Messages:</b></p> <p><b>Encouragement and Hope</b></p> <p><u>"Take courage!"</u></p> <p><u>"I will bless you!"</u></p> <p><u>"I have chosen you!"</u></p> <p>CHAPTER<br/>2</p> |
| <b>Time</b>             | Twenty-three days   | Over two months  |
| <b>Emphasis</b>         | Practical, negative, confronting  | Spiritual, positive, comforting  |
| <b>Scope</b>            | Present condition of Jerusalem temple   | Future glory of God's house  |
| <b>Theme</b>            | We must put God first in order to experience His blessings.   |  |
| <b>Key Verses</b>       | 1:4-5; 2:7-9  |  |
| <b>Christ in Haggai</b> | Christ's presence in this temple, which was further expanded and adorned by Herod, is "the latter glory . . . greater than the former" (2:9). Jesus is "our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). His death on the cross has made us at peace with God now, and His future rule in His glorious kingdom will establish worldwide peace (Haggai 2:9). The righteous leader Zerubbabel is also a type of Christ and part of Jesus's genealogy. |  |

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