

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 197--Haggai 1:1-2:3

Introduction: Haggai arose among the returning captives to urge them to complete the work of building the temple (Ezra 5:1-2). Work on the temple had been delayed for fifteen years; but with God's encouragement the people completed the task in 515 b.c. The book is particularly addressed to the leaders of the Israelites, Zerubbabel (the governor) and Joshua (the high priest).

Lesson aim: To emphasize the need to put God's work first.

The call to activity--Haggai 1:1-15

1. When did Haggai receive his prophetic message? (v. 1) To whom in particular is it addressed?
2. What were the people saying about building the temple? (v. 2) What question does the Lord ask them? (v. 4)
3. What had resulted from the people's neglect of God's work? (v. 6, 9-11) How did God urge the people to correct this? (v. 7-8)
4. How did the people respond to God's rebuke? (v. 12) With what attitude?
5. What promise did God make to the workers? (v. 13)

The call to encouragement--Haggai 2:1-9

1. How long had the people been working before they became discouraged? (cf. 1:15 with 2:1) What was discouraging about the new temple? (v. 3)
2. What did God command the people to do? (v. 4) Why? (v. 4-5)
3. What did God say would happen in the future? (v. 6-7)

4. How would the glory of that temple compare with the former one? (v. 9) What would God grant there?

The call to holiness--Haggai 2:10-19

1. What two questions did God ask the priests? (v. 12-13) What were the answers to these two questions?

2. Thought question: What do you think was the purpose of asking these two questions?

3. What had the situation been before work on the temple started again? (v. 15-17). What did God say would be true from then on? (v. 18-19)

The call to hope--Haggai 2:20-23

1. What did God say He was going to do? (v. 21-22)

2. In contrast, what would God do with Zerubbabel?