Wednesday Morning Senior Adults Bible Study
Spring 2026

HAGGAI

April 22, 2026

THE BASICS

Author: the prophet Haggai
Date: August-December 520 BC (see dates for the individual prophecies below)
Background Information: Many Jews returned from Babylonian exile to Jerusalem and Israel beginning in 538/537 BC, and at first they began to rebuild God's temple. They built the altar and the temple foundation. But because of opposition from other local peoples, their efforts then stalled for 16 years, from 536 to 520 BC. *See Ezra 1:1 to 4:5, 4:24 to 6:15.* Haggai was a contemporary of the prophet Zechariah and is mentioned in Ezra 5:1 and 6:14.

FIRST MESSAGE: Haggai 1:1-11

- *from August 29, 520 BC (the 1st day of the 6th month of the 2nd year of Persia's King Darius, who ruled 521-486 BC; Haggai 1:1)*

1:1 — Haggai's message was directed especially to _____ the governor and _____ the high priest.

1:2, 1:8 — What did God want the people to do?

1:3, 1:9 — According to Haggai, what were the Jews busy with, to the neglect of the rebuilding of God's house?

for group discussion…

Why were the Jews lacking in the things they needed? Why were all their efforts being frustrated?

How might someone do this today, spending all their effort on themselves to the neglect of honoring God? Think about what blessings such a person might miss out on because of their neglect of God.

RESPONSE AND SECOND MESSAGE: Haggai 1:12-15a

- *Rebuilding resumed on the 24th day of the 6th month of Darius's 2nd year—September 21, 520 BC (Haggai 1:14-15).*

How did the leaders and the people respond to Haggai's message?

THIRD MESSAGE: Haggai 1:15b to 2:9

• *from October 17, 520 BC (the 21st day of the 7th month of Darius's 2nd year; Haggai 1:15b to 2:1). It was the last day of the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.*

2:3 — To those who had seen the first temple, the new one being rebuilt looked like _____.

2:4 — What did God call the Jews to do?

2:5 — "And my _____ remains among you. Do not _____."

2:7 — God foretold that he would shake all nations, and what was _____ by all nations would come, and God will fill the new temple ("house") with _____.

2:9 — How would the glory of the first temple and the new temple compare in the future?

for group discussion…

How was the prophecy of 2:7 fulfilled later?

2:9 — In this place, God would grant _____.

FOURTH MESSAGE: Haggai 2:10-19

• *from December 18, 520 BC*

2:11-14 — What does this illustration from the law of Moses mean?

2:15-19 — What is the Lord saying will change, now that the people are working on rebuilding God's temple again?

FIFTH MESSAGE: Haggai 2:20-23

• *from December 18, 520 BC*

2:20-23 — What 2 things did the Lord tell Zerubbabel the governor he (God) would do?

- verses 21-22:

- verse 23:

• What would this message mean for Zerubbabel as he and the Jews rebuilt God's temple?