



“Answering the Call of God”

AIRPORT ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST (Crestview, FL)

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Wednesday Night Summer Series (6-19-13)

Introduction: The Old Testament prophets offer us a wealth of information about the history of Israel, the prophesies about the kingdom, and they reveal the qualities of the Messiah. Many of the prophets are neglected. We don't read and study them as frequently as the gospels or the book of Acts. Maybe it is because they are so large, or seem so distant in the past, or because we don't see appropriate application for a New Testament Christians. Let's study Haggai together.....

Discussion:

I. *Haggai's Background*

Author: The name Haggai means "my feast" or "festival" in Hebrew, probably because he was born during a Israelite festival. He was a dynamic motivator and he is mentioned in **Ezra 5:1, 6:14**, and **Hebrews 12:6**. He was probably old enough to remember Solomon's temple (**Haggai 2:3**) and could have been 70 years old at this time.

Date: It is believed that Haggai was written in 520 BC. If this is the appropriate date then we can specifically date the events of this book as follows: September 24, 520 BC (1:15), October 24, 520 BC (2:1), December 24, 520 BC (2:10, 2:18, 2:20).

Theme: Haggai's message was one of motivation and inspiration. He was determined to get the people back to work. Haggai's role is to call the nation back to build. The prophet does not deal with social injustice, idolatry, or any other activity. He and Zechariah simply command them to get back to work (**Ezra 6**).

Audience: The intended audience is the people of Judah that had returned from the Babylonian exile (about 50,000 Jews). They were given permission from the Persians to inhabit Jerusalem, rebuild the temple, and fortify the walls around the city, but it was delayed because of opposition (**Ezra 4**).

Literary Notes: Haggai, like other prophetic books, is written in prose. His style is plain, direct, and pointed. It should be noted that he use the phrase "says the Lord," or similar wording, 36 times in 38 verses.

Key Verses: **Haggai 1:2, 1:5, 1:7, 1:14, 2:3-4, 2:6, 2:16**

Contemporaries of the Prophet Haggai: Leaders of the people of God included Queen Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, and the prophets Zechariah and Malachi prophesied during this period.

II. *Haggai's Call To Build*

What is the content of the first message? **Haggai 1:1-15**

Why did the building on the temple stop? **Esther 3**

How can riches turn us against God? **I Timothy 6:10**

Is covetousness a form of idolatry? **Mark 4:18-19**

If the leaders of Israel abandoned the people, who didn't? **Isaiah 43:2, Matthew 28:20**

III. *Haggai's Call To Behold*

What is the content of the second message? **Haggai 2:1-9**

What are the three temples? **Haggai 2:3, 3-5, 6-9**

Who was ultimately guilty for stopping the work? **Ezra 3:12**

Why is it important to confront and confess sin? **Nehemiah 1:6, Psalm 51, Proverbs 28:13, Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2, James 5:16**

What do we know about the work on the previous temple? **I Kings 5:15-38**

IV. *Haggai's Call To Behave*

What is the content of the third message? **Haggai 2:10-19**

God required holiness, but what did He get in return? **Nehemiah 8:9, I Peter 3:15**

God required hard work, but what did He get in return? **Zechariah 7:12, Romans 12:11**

God required religious sacrifice, but what did He get in return? **Zechariah 14:21, Romans 12:1-2**

V. *Haggai's Call To Believe*

What is the content of the final message? **Haggai 2:20-30**

Why does he end with a lesson on faith? **Romans 10:17, Matthew 17:20, Hebrews 11:1**

To whom is this last message directed? Why?

Conclusion: We all have a job to do. Each of us have talents and gifts to use in the kingdom of God (**Matthew 25:14-30, Romans 12:3-8, I Corinthians 12:12-30, Ephesians 4:11-16**). Will you help or hinder the work of God? Will you answer the call of God?