



# *The Work of the Lord*

## *A SURVEY OF HAGGAI*

*Sermon by Ray Reynolds (5/15/11)*

Introduction: What happens when the Lord's work starts to weaken and slow down? How does the kingdom suffer when the people become apathetic and lazy? The book of Haggai deals with these issues and more. It is a wonderful book! Let me share some thoughts with you . . . .

Discussion:

### ***I. HAGGAI'S BACKGROUND***

- A. **THE PROPHET:** The name *Haggai* means "my feast" in Hebrew. He was a dynamic motivator and he is mentioned in **Ezra 5:1, 6:14**, and **Hebrews 12:6**.
- B. **HISTORICAL SETTING:** Around 536 BC Cyprus released the Israelites to return to Jerusalem in order to restore the temple. They began work on the temple, completed the foundation, and then the work stopped for 16 years (**Ezra 1-4**)! At this time the prophets Haggai and Zechariah were called to be prophets. Haggai's message was one of motivation and inspiration. He was determined to get the people back to work.
- C. **MESSAGE:** The work of the Lord needed to be revived! The prophecies of Haggai cover a period of four months, against the background of **Ezra 5- 6**. Malachi comes nearly one hundred years later.
- D. **STYLE:** Four distinct messages that were detailed and dated. Scholars love the fact that the writer makes his message and timing clear.
- E. **MEMORABLE PASSAGES:** **Haggai 1:2, 1:5, 1:7, 1:14, 2:3-4, 2:6, 2:16**.

### ***II. HAGGAI'S CALL TO BUILD (1:1-15)***

*First day, sixth month*

### ***III. HAGGAI'S CALL TO BEHOLD (2:1-9)***

*Twenty first day of seventh month*

### ***IV. HAGGAI'S CALL TO BEHAVE (2:10-19)***

*Twenty fourth day of ninth month*

### ***V. HAGGAI'S CALL TO BELIEVE (2:20-30)***

*Twenty fourth day of ninth month*

Conclusion: The work of God must continue. We are called to build (**Matthew 16:18**), we are called to behold (**Revelation 1:7**), we are called to behave (**I Corinthians 13:5**), and we are called to believe (**Romans 10:9-10**). Are you helping or hindering the work of the Lord? There is so much more that needs to be done in our community. What talents do you have to contribute to the Lord's work?

**WORD OF THE DAY = "WORK"**