

Through the Bible in One Year Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

How Israel as ruled from Abraham until the time of Jesus:

- Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- Elders in Egypt
- Military Generals – Moses, Joshua
- Judges – Othniel through Samuel
- Kings – Saul through Zedekiah
- Priests – after exile through Jesus

Haggai

Haggai: means “my feast” – tradition says he was a Levite and that he returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel – he is “the messenger of the Lord” (1:13)

Dating – 520 BC, over 4 months

Setting – Judea was a tiny sub-province of the Persian empire – the Judeans had suffered crop failure due to draught, and they were suffering from inflation – the inhabitants were poor and discouraged – the 50,000 Jews who returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple in 538 BC were located only in Jerusalem and the surrounding area – Samaria was the political center of the region and the Samaritans opposed the reconstruction of Jerusalem (Ezra 1-4) – when Darius the Great took over the Persian throne in 521 BC, he ordered that opposition to the reconstruction of the Temple cease, and ordered those who had opposed the project to help pay for the construction (Ezra 5:3-6:12) – Haggai’s message was to spur his countrymen on to resume construction – the Temple was completed in 515 BC

It is a short book, 2 chapters, 38 verses

It describes the ideal religious worker: self-effacing, Lord exalting, non-procrastinating, filled with God-guided action

1:1-15 God has punished Israel because she has neglected the Temple

1:2, 5, 7, 9 “the Lord Almighty”

1:2, 4 People should be more concerned with building God’s house than their own house, but they are doing just the opposite

1:8 Working on God’s house brings joy and pleasure to God

1:9-11 God will not bless you if you withhold your work for the Lord’s house – this is the reason it has not been ready

1:13; 2:4 “I am with you” (Matt. 28:20) when you are building the Temple

1:14 God will stir up the leaders and workers to do the building

2:1-9 The new Temple will be more splendid than the old one (v.9)

2:3 The former glory of the Temple

2:7-9 God will supply the money necessary – v. 8 “‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ says the Lord.”

2:10-19 When the foundation of the Temple is laid (540 BC) God will bless his people

2:20-23 The Lord will establish a Messianic Kingdom – v.23 “‘Make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,’ says the Lord.”

Zechariah

Zechariah means “Jehovah remembers” – of priestly descent (Neh. 12:6) – returned with Zerubbabel from Babylon – the father of John the Baptist, also a priest, is also named Zechariah (Lk. 1:5-25)

Dating – 520-518 BC – a contemporary of Haggai – his concern was similar – the situation was the same
The longest of the minor prophets

1:1-8:23 Apocalyptic, like Revelation

1:1-6 Call to repentance – v.3 “return to me... I will return to you”

1:7-6:15 Series of night visions – pattern: vision, question, answer

- (1) Divine horseman patrolling the earth (1:8-17) – symbolizes God’s judgment on earth
- (2) Four horns and four smiths (1:18-21) – 4 horns symbolizes the powerful nations on earth; 4 smiths symbolizes the Lord’s agents that will shatter them
- (3) A man measuring Jerusalem (2:1-5) – symbol of God’s intention to protect restored Jerusalem
- (4) Joshua and Satan (3:1-10) – symbolizes God cleansing and forgiving his people
- (5) Golden lamp stand and two olive trees (4:1-14) – symbolizes God succeeding not by human strength but by the power of the Spirit – 4:6; Eph. 3:14-21
- (6) Flying scroll (5:1-4) – the word of God will be the standard of judgment
- (7) Woman in ephah (5:5-11) – Judah will be purified by sending its sin, personified as a woman in an ephah, to Babylon, where the ephah will be worshipped
- (8) Four chariots (6:1-8) – inauguration of Messianic Kingdom with judgment on earth

7:1-14 Question about whether to continue a fast held in Babylon as a commemoration of the fall of Jerusalem now that they are home and the Temple is being rebuilt – God suggested that they never did keep it properly

8:1-23 The Lord will return to Zion and do good to Jerusalem and Judea

9:1-14:21 Direct prophesy

9:1-11:17 The restoration of Israel and the coming of the Messiah

- 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your King comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (Mk. 11:1-10; Jn. 12:12-16)
- 11:4-14 a good shepherd rejected by his sheep for 30 shekels of silver

12:1-14:21 The coming great day of the Lord

- 12:10 “... one whom they have pierced... an only child... a first born”
- 13:1 “... a fountain shall be opened... to cleanse them from sin and impurity”
- 13:6 “And if anyone asks them, ‘What are these wounds on your chest?’ the answer will be, ‘The wounds I received in the house of my friends.’”
- 13:7 “... Strike the shepherd that the sheep may be scattered.” Mk. 14:27)
- 14:4-5 “On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives ... and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two...” (Mk. 13:3-5; Acts 1:9-12) – fault running through
- 14:9 “And the Lord will become King over all the earth...” (Rev. 11:15) – coronation of King Jesus

Malachi

Name means “my messenger” (1:1; 2:7; 3:1; 4:5) – no personal information given – Ex. Federal Express delivery person doesn’t usually give you a lot of biographical data

400 BC Written during the period of Persian domination – last OT prophet until John the Baptist

He uses the Socratic method: asks questions and then gives replies – dialectical approach

1:1-5 God loves Israel

1:6-2:9 Priests have despised God and their solemn vocation – religious leaders are to set an example

2:10-16 God hates divorce and demands marital fidelity

2:17-3:8 The Lord will send a messenger to prepare for the coming day of judgment – like “refiner’s fire” and “fuller’s soap” – it will purify God’s people from sin

- 3:1-5 parallel to Matt. 3:1-12

When the Day of the Lord comes God will suddenly appear at the Temple and the wicked will be judged (4:1-4)

3:6-12 Devotion to God brings blessing

- 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I do not change” (Heb. 13:8)
- 3:8-10 Tithing

3:13-4:3 When the Day of Judgment comes, true worshippers will be spared

4:4 Exhortation to obedience to the Law of Moses

4:5-6 The forerunner (3:1-2) is Elijah (Mk. 1:2; 6:14-16; 9:9-13) – “turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers”

Next week: Matthew, Mark and Luke

Schedule of Daily readings:

	<u>Option One</u>	<u>Option Two</u>
Thursday	Matthew 1-9	Mark 1
Friday	Matthew 10-18	Mark 4
Saturday	Matthew 19-28	Mark 8
Sunday	Mark 1-7	Mark 10
Monday	Mark 8-16	Mark 14
Tuesday	Luke 1-14	Mark 15
Wednesday	Luke 15-24	Mark 16