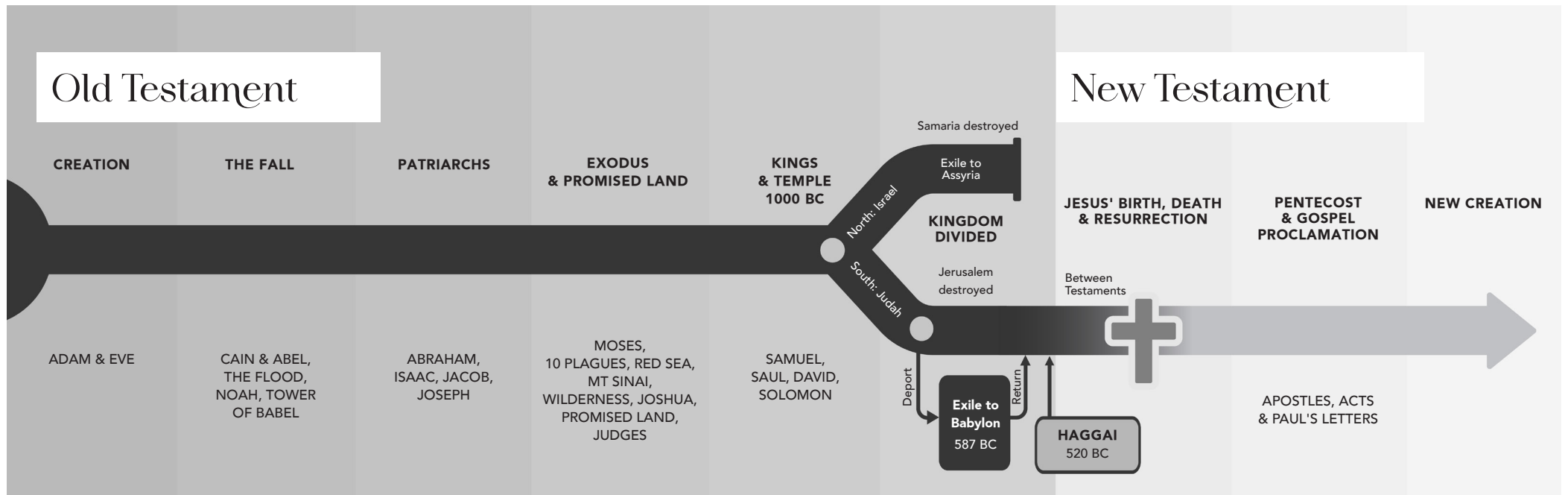


Haggai in the Bible Timeline



STUDY 1

Haggai 1



1. Our actions today, can prepare for the future.

"Because there are dark clouds in the sky, I will take an umbrella with me to work today."

"Because I have an exam tomorrow, I will make sure I have enough sleep tonight, so I can think clearly during the exam."

"Because I want a shady backyard one day, I will plant some bushes or trees to grow."

"The day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit."

What other statements can you come up with like these?

2. Read Haggai 1:1-4

a) When did Haggai give this first prophesy?

b) Who is Darius? Who is Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel? Who is Joshua son of Joazadak?
(Haggai 1:1)

	What do we learn about these men from Haggai 1:1?	What extra information can we find out?
Darius		Ezra 4:5; 4:24
Zerubbabel		Matthew 1:12 Luke 3:27 1 Chronicles 3:17-19
Joshua		Ezra 3:8 Zechariah 3:8

3. What was this first word from the LORD about? Were the people ever planning to rebuild the LORD's house (temple)?

4. What was the importance of the temple? See Exodus 25:8-9 and 1 Kings 8:10-13.

5. What was the LORD saying about the houses the people have built for themselves?
See also 1 Kings 6:15.

Read Haggai 1:5-11

6. Twice in these verses, the LORD says, "Give careful thought to your ways". What did he want them to think about each time?

-the reception of Haggai the prophet? (as opposed to most other Old Testament prophets? (Matthew 5:12)

7. What would building the temple do for the LORD? (v.8)

Does that surprise you? Why or why not?

-the wisdom of the people? (Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 111:10)

8. Why have the returned Israelites failed to thrive economically after returning from exile?

10. "I am with you," declares the LORD. (Haggai 1:13)

a. How did the Israelites respond to this statement?

b. What does this statement from the LORD teach the Israelites (and us) about the temple? (See Isaiah 66:1-2)

Read Haggai 1:12-15

9. The people obeyed the voice of the LORD.

a. What two reasons are given?

11. We learn elsewhere (e.g Ezra) the remnant Israelites in Haggai were persecuted, they were struggling to thrive, and life out of captivity was not as they had anticipated.

a. What lessons did they learn from Haggai 1?

b. Why is this significant in light of:

-the Israelite history?

-the prosperity gospel?

b. What is the greatest encouragement God gives them in this chapter?

12. The remnant lived in different times, facing different challenges than Christians today. However, Haggai teaches us many lessons about the LORD, and a right response to his word.

a. What can we learn from Haggai 1:12-13?

b. How do we take this principle to New Testament living? e.g Matthew 28:18-20 and Revelation 21:3-4.

c. What encouragement can these verses give us daily?

d. How will they affect what life choices we make today?

STUDY 2

Haggai 2:1-9



1. What kinds of things do you find encourage you in your Christian walk?

Read Haggai 2:1-5

2. When did Haggai have this second word from the LORD? Who is this prophecy for?

3. What is wrong with the new temple building? Read Ezra 3:10-13

4. What instructions did the LORD give his people?

5. What encouragement did He give them?

6. *(Optional)* Compare the instructions for the people in Haggai with the instructions for Solomon building the first temple. See 1 Chronicles 28:20.



7. What did God covenant with the Israelites when they came out of Egypt?

See Exodus 19:3-6

8. Given their current situation, why would this have been such a good reminder?

9. In verse 5, the LORD tells them: 'Do not fear'. What things could they be fearful about?

10. What might we be frightened about? How is Haggai's word helpful to us?

Read Haggai 2:6-9

11. What is the LORD promising to do?

12. When will he do this?

13. (Optional) Read Isaiah 60:1-9. What are some similarities between this chapter and what the LORD is promising in this section of Haggai?

Read Luke 2:13-14 and Luke 2:25-32

14. In what ways does Jesus fulfil the promises of Haggai 2?

Read Revelation 21:22-26

15. How does this passage show us the intended fulfilment of Haggai 2?

The book of Haggai is only directly quoted once in the New Testament in Hebrews 12:26.

Read Hebrews 12:26-29.

16. As Christians, what are we receiving?

17. How then should we live?

18. In Haggai, these verses are written as a great source of encouragement and hope for the Israelites. How are they also a source of encouragement and hope for us in Hebrews 12?

STUDY 3

Haggai 2:10-19



1. 'Blessed' is a word still used quite often in the world. What do most people mean when they use the word 'blessed'? What do you think a blessed life looks like for a Christian?

Read Haggai 2:10-14

2. When did Haggai have this third word of the LORD? Who is this prophecy for?

3. Haggai asks the priests two questions. What did he ask? What does this mean? (v.14)

4. What about today - are non-Christians defiled before God? Are Christians defiled before God? Why or why not?

See Romans 3:10-12; Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 John 1:5-2:2

Read Haggai 2:15-19

5. What was the Israelites biggest problem? (v.17) See also Deuteronomy 30:1-3

6. Again, we have a repeated phrase - 'give careful thought' (v.15, 18a & 18b) - what does God want them to carefully consider? Why?

7. What is the great benefit in them now returning to the LORD?

8. The LORD has a specific covenant of blessing with the Israelites about physical prosperity. Do we as Christians have this same promise?

(See Luke 12:22-34; Hebrews 10:32-39)

9. In what ways are we, as Christians, currently blessed by God? (See Ephesians 1:3)

10. How can we live a life bringing praise and glory to God for these incredible blessings? How will what we learned in Haggai help us to do this as New Testament Christians?



STUDY 4

Haggai 2:20-23

1. God makes some big promises in the Bible. What promises have you seen fulfilled? And what promises are you looking forward to God still fulfilling?

Read Haggai 2:20-23

2. When did Haggai have this fourth word from the LORD?

3. Who is this message for? How is that different to the other three messages?

4. What is the LORD promising in verse 21-22? Who will fulfil this promise?

5. Why would this be deeply encouraging to Zerubbabel given his current political circumstances? (Ezra 4:1-5)

6. The LORD has a very personal message for Zerubbabel in verse 23. What is God promising? Read Jeremiah 22:24-30. What is God re-establishing here?

7. Why would this be deeply encouraging to Zerubbabel?

8. **Read Matthew 1:12-17.** How did God fulfil this promise? How is this deeply encouraging to us as Christians?

9. The LORD promises that there will be a day when he will shake the heavens and the earth, overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms.

Read 2 Peter 3:7-14

What does God promise about the last day?

Why can this be deeply encouraging to us?

Why hasn't God fulfilled this promise yet?

10. The LORD made two promises in this final section of Haggai, one we can see fulfilled, the other yet to be fulfilled. What can we learn about God from this? How can we live in the light of this?

Extra Notes 

