

"A MAN WHO SAW HIS DUTY AND DID IT"
(Haggai)

Every once in a while, a person comes along who can hold the attention of a whole nation. Haggai was such a man.

I. THE TIMES:

1. The Jews have returned from exile to their homeland.
2. Under Zerubbabel, the holy city of Jerusalem and especially the temple was being rebuilt.
3. The people began to be more interested in rebuilding their own homes and businesses than in rebuilding the temple.
4. 16 years passed and still the temple lay in ruins.
5. All the rosy dreams of the once exiled Jews were being destroyed by drought, failing trade, poor crops, and opposition of neighbors.
6. The people were not finding the expected happiness.

II. THE MAN:

1. Haggai was probably an old man.
2. He loved the Temple and was determined to get it rebuilt.
3. People were so caught up by his zeal they too became excited.
4. In unseen ways, Haggai was able to put Godly courage into the hearts of his kinsmen.

III. THE BOOK:

1. The book is a collection of four brief articles written between the last week of August and the 24th day of December, 520 B.C.
2. The central purpose of the book is Haggai's determination to rebuild the temple and persuading the people to get to work.
3. The outline:
 - 1:2-15 - A word of rebuke and a call to action.
 - 2:1-9 - A call to courage and encouragement in the hour of disappointment.
 - 2:10-19 - An appeal to conscience and a call to patience.
 - 2:20-23 - A message of hope to Zerubbabel, who was the leader.

IV. LESSONS OF VALUE:

1. Always face the difficult as courageously and as quickly as possible.
2. A stern call to duty is good for everyone.
3. We are not to live in fine, comfortable houses and allow God's house to be in ruins.
4. The effects of evil are serious and long lasting.
5. Full obedience to God is a necessary condition of approach to Him.
6. Outward appearance does not necessarily mean truth.
7. The best test of a preacher is found in whether or not his words stimulate action.