

LESSON 25: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

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(REVISED) TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

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Lesson 25

HAGGAI

- Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are known as the ‘post-captivity prophets. They were prophets during the restoration of Jerusalem and the Temple.
- Whereas Haggai and Zechariah challenged the people to finish rebuilding the temple which had been discontinued, Malachi confronted the tragic sin and apostasy of God’s people.
- Haggai was among the first group to go to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:2). He was probably born in Babylon during the captivity.

OUTLINE

- Haggai’s First Message - Condemnation (1)
 - *In the second year of King Darius... the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel... governor of Judah, and to Joshua... the high priest: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord’s house.’” (1:1)*
 - *Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai:*
 - *“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?*
 - *...Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it...*
 - *Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored...*
 - *You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why? ...Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house...” (1:3-11)*
 - The response.
 - *Then Zerubbabel... Joshua... the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD... and the message of the prophet Haggai... And the people feared the LORD.*
 - *Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: “I am with you...” So, the LORD stirred up... the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD... In the second year of King Darius, (1:12-15)*
- Haggai’s second message - Encouragement (2:1-9)
 - *...In the second year of King Darius... the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: “Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does*

it not seem to you like nothing? But now be strong... all you people of the land, ...and work. For I am with you... This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.’ (2:1–2)

- *This is what the LORD Almighty says: “In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory... The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house... And in this place I will grant peace...”*
- Haggai’s third message – Clean and Unclean (2:10–19)
 - *...in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Haggai: “Ask the priests what the law says: If someone carries consecrated meat in the fold of their garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, olive oil or other food, does it become consecrated?” The priests answered, “No.” Then Haggai said, “If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?” “Yes,” the priests replied... Then Haggai said, “So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,” declares the LORD. “Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled. “*
 - *“Now give careful thought to this from this day on—consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the LORD’s temple. When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. I struck all the work of your hands... with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD. “...give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the LORD’s temple was laid. From this day on I will bless you.”*
- Haggai’s fourth message – A Prophecy concerning Zerubbabel. *The word of the LORD came to Haggai... “Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother. On that day... I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel... and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,” declares the LORD Almighty.” (2:20-23)*

• ZECHARIAH

- Zechariah was contemporary with Haggai (Ezra 5:1; Haggai 1:1; Zechariah 1:1). He was both priest and prophet.
- He was a direct descendant of Aaron.
- There are more prophecies of Christ in Zechariah than in any other prophetic book except Isaiah. (1:14, 3:8, 6:12-13, 9:9-10, 11:12-13, 12:10, 13:7-9, 14:4, 9)

OUTLINE

- Eight Symbolic Visions (chaps. 1–6)
 - The introduction to the visions.
 - *In the... second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah... “The Lord was very angry with your ancestors. Therefore, tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Return to me... and I will return to you... Do not be like your ancestors... Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices’ but they would not listen... did not my words and my decrees... overtake your ancestors?*
 - *Then they repented and said, ‘The Lord Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.’*
 - The visions (1:7–6:8)
 - The red horse. *...During the night I had a vision, and there before me was a man mounted on a red horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, brown and white horses. I asked, “What are these, my lord?” ...Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, “They are the ones the LORD has sent to go throughout the earth.” And they reported to the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace.” ...Then the angel who was speaking to me said, “Proclaim this word: ‘I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, and I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. ...they went too far with the punishment. I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt... My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’” (1:7-17)*
 - The four horns. *Then I looked up, and there before me were four horns. I asked the angel who was speaking to me, “What are these?” He answered me, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.” (Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome) Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. I asked, “What are these coming to do?” He an-*

swered, “These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise their head, but the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people.” (1:18-21)

- The surveyor. *Then I looked up, and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand. I asked, “Where are you going?” He answered me, “To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is.” While the angel who was speaking to me was leaving, another angel came to meet him and said to him: “Run, tell that young man, ‘Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of people and animals in it. And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,’ declares the LORD, and I will be its glory within...’ After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you... I will surely raise my hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me. Shout and be glad... For I am coming, and I will live among you... Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you, and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you... Be still before the LORD... (2:1-13)*
- Joshua, the Priest. *Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you!” ...Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by... “If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.” (3:1-10)*
- The lampstand. *Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. He asked me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. Also, there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left... What are these, my lord?” He answered... “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty... The*

hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it.” ...Then I asked the angel, “What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?” So, he said, “These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.” (4:1-14)

- *The flying scroll. I looked again, and there before me was a flying scroll. He asked me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a flying scroll, twenty cubits long and ten cubits wide (about 30’x15’).” And he said to me, “This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished...” (5:1-4)*
- *The woman. Then the angel who was speaking to me came forward and said to me, “Look up and see what is appearing.” I asked, “What is it?” He replied, “It is a basket... This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land.” Then the cover of lead was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman! He said, “This is wickedness,” and he pushed her back into the basket and pushed its lead cover down on it. Then I looked up—and there before me were two women, with the wind in their wings! They had wings like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between heaven and earth. “Where are they taking the basket?” I asked... “To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place.” (5:5-11)*
- *The chariots. I looked up again, and there before me were four chariots coming out from between two mountains—mountains of bronze. The first chariot had red horses, the second black, the third white, and the fourth dappled—all of them powerful. “These are the four spirits of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world. The one with the black horses is going toward the north country, the one with the white horses toward the west, and the one with the dappled horses toward the south...” Then he called to me, “Look, those going toward the north country have given my Spirit rest in the land of the north.” (6:1-8)*
- **Four Messages (7–8)**
 - *A religious question. In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah... The people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-Melek, together with their men, to entreat the LORD by asking the priests of the house of the LORD Almighty and the prophets, “Should I mourn and fast in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?” (7:1–3)*
 - *A message of rebuke. “When you fasted and mourned in the fifth*

and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted? And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves?” (7:4–7)

- A message of repentance. *And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: “...Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other... “ But they refused to pay attention... So, the LORD Almighty was very angry. “When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen... I scattered them... among all the nations, where they were strangers. The land they left behind them was so desolate that no one traveled through it. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate.” (7:8–14)*
- A message of restoration. *This is what the Lord Almighty says: “...I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem... Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem... I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God... Do not be afraid. These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the Lord. (8:1–17)*
- A message of rejoicing. *This is what the LORD Almighty says: “...And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty...” (8:18–23)*
- Prophecies (chaps. 9–14)
 - *Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey... He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (9:9–10)*
 - *Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime... He gives showers of rain to all people... The idols speak deceitfully, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore, the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd. My anger burns against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD Almighty will care for his flock... (10:1–5)*
 - *“I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves... I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness... I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume all the surrounding peo-*

ples right and left, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place. (12:1-6)

- *“...I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son... (12:10-14)*
- *A day of the LORD is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured... Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations... On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley... You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him... living water will flow out from Jerusalem... The LORD will be king over the whole earth... there will be one LORD, and his name the only name... Jerusalem will be raised up high from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses and will remain in its place... never again will it be destroyed... (14)*

MALACHI

- Malachi prophesied after the days of Nehemiah when the condition of the Jews had become deplorable.
- After Malachi a period of four hundred years of silence began and did not end until Gabriel appeared to Zechariah (Luke 1:5-23), and Mary (Luke 1:26-38).

OUTLINE

- Introduction. *“A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi. (1:1)”*
- Malachi’s First Oracle. *“I have loved you,” says the LORD. “... Was not Esau Jacob’s brother? Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland... They may build, but I will demolish... You will see it with your own eyes and say, ‘Great is the LORD—even beyond the borders of Israel!’”*
- Malachi’s Second Oracle. (1:6–2:9)
 - *“A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me? ...It is you priests who show contempt for my name... By offering defiled food on my altar... When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? ...Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you... and I will accept no offering from your hands... If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor my name... I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings... I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue... the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth. But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi... So, I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways...” (1:6-2:9)*
- Malachi’s Third Oracle. (2:10–16)
 - *Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another? Judah has been unfaithful... by marrying women who worship a foreign god. As for the man who does this... may the LORD remove him from the tents of Jacob — even though he brings an offering to the LORD... (2:10-12)*
 - *...You flood the LORD’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them... It is because the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant... So be on your*

guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth... The man who hates and divorces his wife... does violence to the one he should protect... ” (2:13-16)

- *Malachi’s Fourth Oracle. You have wearied the LORD with your words... by saying, “All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them” or “Where is the God of justice?” ...the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple... But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire... “So, I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice... (2:17–3:5)*
- *Malachi’s Fifth Oracle. “I the LORD do not change. So, you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed... you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you... Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me... In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse — your whole nation — because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it... Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land...” (3:6–12)*
- *Malachi’s Sixth Oracle. “You have spoken arrogantly against me... You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements... Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. “On the day when I act... they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not. Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire...” (3:13–4:3)*
- *Conclusion. “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.” (4:4–6)*