

The Floral Heights Informer

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

June 03 2007
Volume 7; Issue 22

Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650

In This Issue:

The Book of Haggai 1-2
Local News 2
Sermon Outline 3
The Book of Psalms – Back
Cover

Elders:

Mike Chancellor
(322 – 6374)
Tom Witherspoon
(766 – 5368)

Deacons:

Joe Cronin
Jim Hall
David Witherspoon

Preacher:

John C. Robertson

Haggai

“Thus saith Jehovah of hosts: Consider your ways”

Haggai 1:7

Haggai’s Work

Haggai was a prophet of God that prophesied to the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from Babylon during the year 536 BC (i.e., the first year of Cyrus over Babylon / cf. Ezra 1:1-2). These Jews were led back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple of Jehovah that had been destroyed by the Babylonians. Seventy years had been spent in Babylonian captivity as foretold by Jeremiah (cf. Jer. 25:11). God had **commanded** that the temple now be constructed (cf. Ezra 1:1-2; 6:14). Zerubbabel returns to Jerusalem with 50,000 people to build the temple under the authority of Cyrus (cf. Ezra 1:1-2 / see also Isa. 44:28). A strong and zealous start by the people results in the completion of the foundation of the temple after two years of being in Jerusalem (cf. Ezra 3:8ff). The adversaries; i.e., the Samaritans, soon discourage the Jews from building. The Samaritans “*weakened the hands of the people of Judah*” and “*frustrated their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia*” (cf. Ezra 4:4-5, 24). The next 15 years pass with no work being done on the temple of God (compare Ezra 4:24 to 6:1ff). The people failed to keep God’s command to build the temple and were thereby in sin. The objective of God’s prophet Haggai was to motivate the people to get back to the work of rebuilding the temple.

Date of Haggai

Ezra 5:1-2 reveals that Haggai entered upon his work on the first day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius. The prophet’s first address to the people regarding their delinquency made such an impression, that Zerubbabel and Joshua with the people set about the work of building as early as the twenty-fourth day of the same month (comp. Hagg. 1:1 and 14f.). Four years later (total of 21 years) the temple is completed (six total years of actual construction) (compare Ezra 1:1; 3:8 and 6:15). This dates the book to the second year of Darius the king (i.e., 519 BC) (note that the 17 years in Jerusalem minus 536 BC equals 519 BC).

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors. We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Nicole York (wife of Kevin York) had a severe migraine headache that sent her to the emergency room this past week. Gary and Rita request our prayers and want to express their appreciation for everyone's concerns.

Nina Gray's surgery this past Tuesday went well. She remains in room 103 at Kell West Hospital to recover.

The Last Sunday of the Month Singing is this Evening!

If you have a favorite song that you would like one of the men to sing this evening be sure and put your request in now!

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

First of four Oracles: Get Busy

Haggai reveals God's displeasure in the people's 15 year period of disobedience (Hag. 1:4). Once again the Lord commands, through Haggai, that the people get to work on the temple (Hag. 1:8). Haggai calls upon the people in Jerusalem to reason with God. Haggai asks them to consider why they are in the current distress of drought (Hab. 1:11), little harvest (2:16), mildew and hail (Hag. 2:17). Why all the distress? "*Because of my house that lies waste, while ye run every man to his own house*" (Hag. 1:9). The sovereign God of creation has called upon nature to correct His people. After Haggai's "*stirring*" words (cf. Hag. 1:14) the Jews "*consider*" these things and respond with obedience and fear (Hab. 1:12). The people begin working 23 days after Haggai delivers the first oracle (Hag. 1:15). The great lesson learned is that God's blessings are contingent upon Israel's obedience (compare Hag. 1:7-9 with 2:19).

Second of four Oracles: Encouragement

Haggai delivers his second revelation to the people of Jerusalem three and a half weeks after the people begin working on the temple. Once again discouragement settled in among the builders. This time it was not the Samaritans but rather their view of the current temple. Ezra tells us that after the foundation was laid many mourned due to the little stature of the temple in comparison to Solomon's (cf. Ezra 3:12 and Hag. 2:3). Haggai encourages the people by telling them to be strong because God is with them in their efforts (Hag. 2:4).

Third of Four Oracles: A Call for Repentance

Haggai delivers the third revelation to the people of Jerusalem three months after the work on the temple had started. Though the people had obeyed through fear (cf. Hag. 1:12) and begun to rebuild the temple (Hag. 1:14) they were still considered "*unclean*" (Hag. 2:14). Their every work was thereby unclean (Hag. 2:14). Haggai calls upon the people to consider their sinful ways and turn to God that they may receive the blessings of Jehovah (2:15-18).

Four of Four Oracles: The Hope of the Anointed Christ

Haggai delivers this last oracle the same day that he received and delivered the third (i.e., three months after the work of the temple had begun). Zerubbabel is told that the Lord has chosen him to bring about His anointed one. Through Christ all eternal blessings will be found to those who turn their hearts to him. John C.
Robertson