

From Exile to a Rebuilt Temple

A Timeline for the Book of Haggai

Haggai spoke at one particular moment in a much longer story. This page shows what came before, what happened in that one year, and what came after.

- About 960 BC** ○ **Solomon's temple is completed**
King Solomon builds the first temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 6).
- 597 BC** ○ **King Jehoiachin is taken to Babylon**
The grandfather of Zerubbabel is carried into exile with thousands of others (2 Kings 24:10-16).
- 586 BC** ● **Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed**
Babylon burns the temple and the city. The exile is complete (2 Kings 25:8-12).
- 539 BC** ○ **Persia conquers Babylon**
Cyrus the Great takes the city of Babylon.
- 538 BC** ○ **The decree of Cyrus**
Cyrus allows the Jewish people to go home and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1-4).
- About 536 BC** ○ **The foundation is laid, and the work stops**
The people celebrate the new foundation (Ezra 3:8-13). Opposition and discouragement soon bring the work to a halt (Ezra 4:4-5, 24).
- 522 BC** ○ **Darius becomes king of Persia**
Haggai dates his messages by the years of this king's reign.

520 BC: The Year of Haggai

The second year of King Darius. Four messages in about four months.

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| Late August
Sixth month, day 1 | Message 1: Consider your ways. Build the house (Haggai 1:1-11). |
| Mid September
Sixth month, day 24 | The work begins again , twenty-three days later (Haggai 1:12-15). |
| Mid October
Seventh month, day 21 | Message 2: Be strong and work, for I am with you (Haggai 2:1-9). |
| Late October or November
Eighth month | Zechariah begins to preach alongside Haggai (Zechariah 1:1). |
| Mid December
Ninth month, day 24 | Messages 3 and 4: From this day I will bless you. A promise to Zerubbabel (Haggai 2:10-23). |

- About 515 BC** ● **The temple is finished**
Completed in the sixth year of Darius and dedicated with great joy (Ezra 6:15-16).
- 458 BC** ○ **Ezra arrives in Jerusalem**
A priest and teacher comes to teach the people God's law (Ezra 7).
- 445 BC** ○ **Nehemiah rebuilds the walls**
The walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt in fifty-two days (Nehemiah 6:15).
- About 20 BC** ○ **Herod begins enlarging the temple**
The temple Zerubbabel built is expanded into the one Jesus knew.

Dates before Christ count down, so 586 BC is earlier than 520 BC. Dates marked "about" are approximate.