

Haggai thru Malachi

Zechariah 6:12-13

- Our study will take us on a brief journey through each of the books of the Bible.
- Our aim: To impart perspective and the key to each book.
- Our construction: Key word; key verse; Key to Christ.

Haggai

A. Means: Hag is Hebrew for festival so it could mean festival of the Lord.

- a. He mentions his own name 9 times, so it seems more than probable Haggai wrote this.
- b. Around the time of Ezra 4-6 (534 BC) the Jews were being discouraged rebuilding the temple by the occupiers and neglected the work for some 124 years. Haggai and Zechariah were commissioned to urge the Jews to get on with the rebuild resuming work 520 BC "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your panelled houses and this temple to lie in ruins?" (1:4).
- c. He lives during Darius I's reign in Babylon. Zechariah writes in between the two appeals of Haggai.
- d. The book is short but contains 4 sharp hitting sermons 1:1-15 complete the temple; 2:1-9 glory of the temple; 2:10-19 present blessings; 2:20-23 future blessings.

B. Keys to Haggai:

- a. Key word: Reconstruction.
- b. Key Verses: 1:7 "'Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple"
- c. Key Chapter: Haggai 2 especially vs. 6-9 where the Lord said He would "shake heaven and earth" in order to fill the temple with God's glory in reference to Jesus.
- d. Key to Christ: The "latter temple shall be greater than the former...and this place I will give peace" in reference to the church "latter temple" referring to I Cor.3:16-19 "you [the Corinthians] are God's temple" and Eph.2:21 the people of the church are the "structure...joined together into a holy temple in the Lord".

Zechariah

A. Means: Yahweh remembers. He is one 29 to share this name in the O/T. Matt.23:35 says he was murdered between the altar and the temple.

B. The theme is to prepare for the Messiah he talks of through a series of 8 visions and 4 messages. There is a picture painted of Israel's good fortune, problems and its future. All these feature from chapters 1-8. The last 5 chapters deal with a prediction of Israel's rejection of Christ and His reign as the head of the church. [NB: as a clear rejection of the Jehovah's Witness and other cults that Jesus was just a man and not God, Zechariah 2:10-12 in the context of the Messiah will "dwell in [Israel's] midst, says the Lord"; "LORD" is "yehôvâh" i.e. Jehovah (Strong's 3068); cf Brown, Briggs and Driver].

C. Keys to Zechariah:

- a. Key word: Prepare.
- b. Key verses: 8:3 "Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain".
- c. Key chapter: Chapter 14 AD 70 is in view.
- d. Key to Christ: The "righteous branch" and "King Priest 3:8; 6:12-13 is clearly a reference to Christ; rejected for thirty shekels; the smitten shepherd all point to the cross of Jesus.

Malachi

A. Means: My messenger.

- a. The author Malachi which no one takes exception to. Interesting, 1:1 is the only place his name is mentioned in the whole Bible.
- b. The theme is: Buck up! Stop wallowing in self-pity and disregarding the Law's prescription for righteous life.
- c. Malachi tells them of God's love for them using the comparison of Esau and Jacob; that the reason God is withholding His love because they disregard His law regarding sacrifices, divorce, tithes and their arrogance toward the character of God.

B. Keys to Habakkuk:

- a. Key word: Backsliders.
- b. Key verses: 2:17 "You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?" – "'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.".
- c. Key chapter: Chapter 3 Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me (John the Baptist)
- d. Key to Christ: Malachi precedes 400 years of God's silence then will come John heralding the Christ.