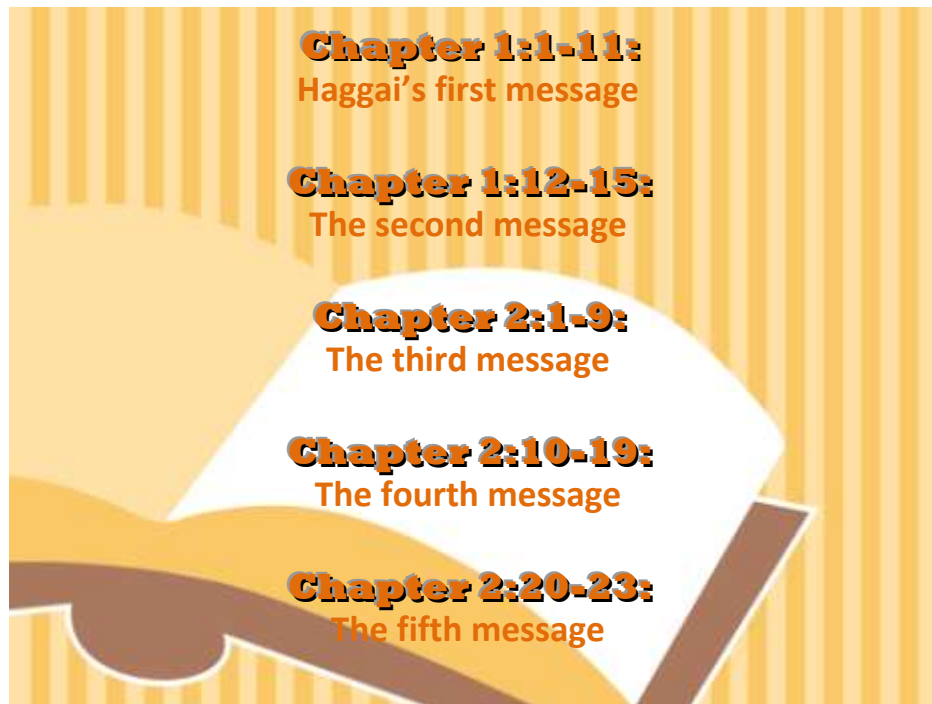


The Prophet Haggai

“Consider your ways.” Mark 10:45



How it started: The prophet Haggai, together with the prophets Zechariah and Malachi, belongs to the last prophets of the Old Testament. These three prophets have one thing in common, as far as their service is concerned: All three address the same group of people. Their words are directed at a small part of the Jewish people, who returned to Judah after 70 years in Babylonian captivity. These Jews had started – with much zeal and energy – to rebuild the destroyed temple. That was a real revival, worked by God. First they rebuild the altar of burnt offerings in its old place, in order to be able to bring the prescribed daily offerings. With a thankful heart, they wanted to give their God His due.

The altar of burnt offering speaks of the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross. How are things with regard to your thankfulness? Is the Lord Jesus your Saviour? Do you thank Him daily for what He has done for you on the cross?

What it is all about: Sadly, the later history of the Jewish people shows that their priorities with regard to their occupation changed. At first they gave everything for the things of God, but soon they gave priority to their own personal interests.

In October you have already read the historical background in the book of Ezra. It also mentioned the opposition of the Jewish enemies and other difficulties, which caused the building of the temple to stop for a long time.

Through the prophet Haggai, God shows the Jews the main reasons for their negligence. The Lord spoke through His prophets, in order to encourage the people to continue building.

How about today? How are things with you? Did you also have a good beginning and may have become negligent? What are the reasons for this? Generally they are no different from those of the Jews in the past. – You will be surprised how up to date Haggai's message is!