

# “THE FUTURE GLORY OF THIS HOUSE”

## The Book of Haggai

**Who wrote The Book of Haggai?**

The Book of Haggai was written by the prophet, Haggai.

**How did The Book of Haggai get its name and/or what does that name mean?**

The Book of Haggai was named after its author, Haggai.

**When did these events take place?**

The events in the Book of Haggai took place in 520 B.C.

**For more about The Book of Haggai:**

See page 979 in the Fireside Catholic Youth Bible.

Think about how difficult it was the last time you tried to replace something that meant a great deal to you. Perhaps you lost a keepsake one of your grandparents once gave you. Or, vandals destroyed the porch decoration you made for your parents in shop or craft class at school. Maybe it was something as simple as watching the waves and the rising tide eventually topple a sand castle you worked on all morning. Regardless of what it was, your enthusiasm for beginning again probably wasn't the same. And even if you managed to replace whatever it was, despite the encouragement of others around you, somehow the replacement just never seemed as good in your mind as the original.

God encouraged the Hebrew people in just such a circumstance through the Prophet Haggai. In 520 B.C. the Jews had already been back from their captivity in Babylon for twenty years. They had yet to begin rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. It's as if they believed (even before they began) that the grandeur of the magnificent Temple built by David and Solomon that had been destroyed could not be duplicated. In fact the Jews were preoccupied with rebuilding their own houses instead. Haggai challenged them in 1:4 "Is it time for you to dwell in your own paneled houses while this house lies in ruin?"

This book reminds us to keep our priorities in order no matter what happens in life. Like the Hebrew people, we will have situations when our lives will get out of order. This might happen in our physical world where we lose things or in our hearts where we simply lose our way. Like the Babylonian army, the temptation and sin can make a wreck of our spiritual lives. The Book of Haggai encourages us that, no matter what happens, we can and should rebuild our lives. Then, like Haggai, we will recognize that "Greater will be the future glory of this house."

**Interesting Fact:** The prophet Haggai was greatly responsible for the Temple in Jerusalem being rebuilt after the return of the Jews from Babylon.

**Bonus Point:** Who was the King that gave the Jews permission to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem?