

## Life-Study of Zephaniah, and Haggai

### Zephaniah – Jehovah’s Judgment and Salvation

- The name Zephaniah in Hebrew means “Jah hides” or “Jah treasures,” probably signifying **to be hidden by Jehovah as His treasure in the day of His anger**.
- Subject: Jehovah’s judgment on Israel and on the nations and His salvation to the Gentiles and to Israel.
  - His **judgment** is **first on Israel** and **then on the nations**, but His **salvation** is **first to the Gentiles** and **then to Israel**.
- Central thought: Jehovah is the **judging** and **saving** God **both** to Israel and to the nations, issuing in His reigning among Israel and in Israel’s singing and rejoicing in their restoration.
- The revelation concerning Christ in Zephaniah is in His being the King of Israel **in the midst** of her in the restoration.
- In Jehovah’s judgment on Israel, He will cut off the **wicked** and prepare **Jerusalem with its princes** as His **sacrifice**.
- In chapter 2, the prophet admonishes Israel to gather and repent to Jehovah, seeking Jehovah, righteousness, and meekness.

### Haggai – The Building of the House of Jehovah in Relation to Israel’s Welfare and Messiah’s Coming

- In Hebrew Haggai means “My feast” or “the feast of Jehovah,” signifying that Haggai the prophet expected earnestly to return from the captivity that **the feasts of Jehovah might be restored**.
- **Subject:** Jehovah’s dealing with the returned captives for the building of His house.
- **Central Thought:** The building of the house of Jehovah is related to the welfare of God’s people today and to the coming of the millennial kingdom with its Messiah in the age of restoration.
  - We should consider that **Haggai refers to us**, since we are the **reality of the type of the house of God**.
  - Jehovah’s dealing with the **returned captives** signifies His dealing with **us in the recovery**.
- The revelation concerning Christ in Haggai covers two matters.
  - Christ in His being the Desire of all the nations.

- Christ in His coming as the Messiah.

### **Haggai – Jehovah’s Rebuke and Charge Concerning the Delay of the Building of His House**

- In chapter 1, we have Jehovah’s rebuke.
  - The **people’s excuse** for delaying to rebuild the house of Jehovah was that the time had not yet come for the house to be rebuilt.
  - Jehovah questioned through Haggai that **the children of Israel were taking care of their houses but not Jehovah’s house.**
  - Jehovah dealt with the self-caring and God-neglecting returned captives.
    - By charging them to **consider their ways.**
    - By telling them that they had **sown much but brought in little.**
    - By saying that they **looked for much and it amounted to little.**
- In His charge Jehovah told the people to consider their ways and to go up to the mountain and **bring wood and build the house**, and He would **take pleasure in it and would be glorified.**
  - Today our **gospel preaching** is our gathering of material for the building of God’s house.
- In chapter 2, we have the prophecy concerning the house of Jehovah in the millennium and the promise of Messiah in the coming kingdom.
  - The prophecy concerning the **house of Jehovah in the millennium** was an **encouragement** to the building of Jehovah’s house at Zerubbabel’s time.
  - Verse 7 reveals that Christ is the Desire of all the nations. Today people desire life, light, love, patience, and endurance without realizing that **to desire these virtues is actually to desire Christ.**
  - In verses 10-19 the people’s moral and spiritual uncleanness needed to be removed that they would be blessed by God.
  - Finally in verses 20-23 we have the promise of Messiah typified by Zerubbabel in the coming kingdom. God’s signet has been given to Christ. He represents God, and He is the One whom God loves and trusts.

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