

# Haggai 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying,

## Analysis

**In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai**—This precise dating (October 17, 520 BC) marks Haggai's second oracle, delivered exactly three weeks after the people resumed temple construction (Haggai 1:15). The timing is significant: the seventh month (תִּשְׁרִי/Tishri) was Israel's most sacred month, containing the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles. Haggai spoke on the seventh day of Tabernacles, when Israel celebrated God's wilderness provision and dwelt in temporary shelters, remembering their dependence on God.

The phrase "came the word of the LORD" (הָיָה דְבַר־יְהוָה/hayah debar-YHWH) emphasizes divine initiative—prophecy originates not from human imagination but from God's sovereign communication. The prophet is merely the vessel; the message carries divine authority. This formula appears throughout the prophets, establishing that what follows demands attention and obedience as God's own word.

"By the prophet Haggai" (בְּיַד־חֲגַי הַנָּבִיא/beyad-Chaggai hanavi)—literally "by the hand of Haggai"—indicates the prophet as God's instrument. Haggai's name means "my feast" or "festive," appropriate for one ministering during Israel's feast season. Though Haggai's personal background remains obscure, his message transformed a discouraged community into motivated builders who completed God's house.

## Historical Context

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This second prophecy came while the people were actively rebuilding. They had obeyed Haggai's first message (delivered a month earlier) and resumed construction, but now faced a different challenge: discouragement over the temple's inferior appearance compared to Solomon's magnificent structure. Some older Israelites who remembered the first temple's glory wept when they saw the new foundation (Ezra 3:12-13).

The seventh month held profound significance. It was when Solomon dedicated the first temple (1 Kings 8:2), making the timing poignant—a reminder of past glory while confronting present limitations. The Feast of Tabernacles celebrated God's faithfulness during wilderness wandering, when Israel had no temple at all yet experienced God's presence in the pillar of cloud and fire. Haggai's message during this feast reoriented their perspective from architectural comparison to covenant relationship.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the precise historical dating of God's word demonstrate that Scripture addresses real people in real circumstances, not just abstract theology?
2. What significance do you see in God speaking during Israel's feast season rather than at a 'more convenient' time?
3. How does understanding that 'the word of the LORD came' through human prophets inform your view of biblical authority and inspiration?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּשִׁבְעִי	בְּעֶשְׂרִים	וְאֶחָד	לַחֹדֶשׁ	הָיְתָה	
In the seventh	and twentieth	month in the one	day of the month	H1961	
H7637	H6242	H259	H2320		
דָּבַר	יְהוָה	בִּיד	חַגִּי	הַנָּבִיא	יֹאמַר:
came the word	of the LORD	by	Haggai	the prophet	saying
H1697	H3068	H3027	H2292	H5030	H559

## Additional Cross-References

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**Haggai 2:20** (Word): And again the word of the LORD came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying,

**Haggai 1:1** (Word): In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,