

HAGGAI – CHAPS 1-2 – Command to Build God’s House; People’s Obedience; Coming Glory of God’s House; People are Defiled; Promised Blessing; Zerubbabel Chosen as a Signet; WE MUST PUT GOD FIRST IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE HIS BLESSINGS!

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente**, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The Command to Build God’s House (vs. 1-11) – Be Productive

Hag 1:1 In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,
Hag 1:2 "Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, 'The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.' " "
Hag 1:3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,
Hag 1:4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?"
Hag 1:5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways!"
Hag 1:6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes."
Hag 1:7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways!"
Hag 1:8 Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the LORD.
Hag 1:9 "You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the LORD of hosts. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.
Hag 1:10 Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit.
Hag 1:11 For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

v. 1 In each of his messages, Haggai tells us the exact time it was given to him to share with the people. son - Adoptive son to Shealtiel, being of the royal line, but by nature, son of Pedaiah. Governor The Persian king appointed Zerubbabel as governor of Judah (**Haggai 1:1**), and right away he began rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem with the help of Joshua, the high priest (**Ezra 3:2-3,8**). - A type of the great deliverer; one Joshua leads them into Canaan, another restores the temple.

Read more:<http://www.gotquestions.org/Zerubbabel-second-temple.html#ixzz3XtXFNDNI>

v. 2 The word of the Lord came through Haggai to Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest. The year was 520 B.C. Sixteen years earlier, Zerubbabel, the political leader, and Joshua, the high priest led a contingency of approximately 45,000 Jews from Babylon a few hundred miles south to Jerusalem after being held captive in Babylon for seventy years. When the Lord's people started building the temple and the going got rough, they said, "It's not the Lord's time to build."

vs. 3-4 houses – Arched ceilings and richly adorned. “How is it that you have time Paneled to panel your houses but not to do what I have called you to do?” the Lord asks His people.

v. 5 “Consider” is a command the Lord will repeat five times in this short book. “Consider your ways. Search your heart,” God calls their attention to something which is very practical. This gets right down to the nitty-gritty of life. “**Consider your ways**” is literally, set your heart upon your ways. Look at what is happening to you.

vs. 6-7 The people were working hard but they were neither satisfied nor getting ahead because no matter how hard they worked, they still felt empty within. That’s always the way it is. None warm - You have no comfort therein. With holes - Loses all his labor. This is what God is saying to His people. He wants them to consider their ways. He wants them to set their hearts upon their ways. He asks, "Don't you see what is happening to you?" Now let me ask you, "What way are you on today? What path are you taking?"

v. 8 Take pleasure - I will accept your offerings, and hear your prayers. Glorified - Shew my majesty and account myself glorified by you also.

v. 9 Came to little - But it answered not the expectation. I blew it away - I blasted it. You runs - You with eagerness carry on your own particular buildings.

v. 10 Is stayed - God hath forbidden them, to drop down dew.

v. 11 If the oil of the anointing of the Spirit is absent from your life; if the wine—the joy of the Spirit—is missing; if there is a barrenness and dryness within, it could be an indication of a point of disobedience in our lives.

We will meet on April 27, 28 and begin Zechariah Schedule of “no class” weeks due to my travel schedule: There will be no classes during the following two weeks in May: Mon/Tues – May 4, 5; Mon/Tues – May 11, 12

- In each of his messages, Haggai tells us the exact time it was given to him to share with the people. There are important points in our lives that are punctuated by the interjection of a specific word given to us by the Spirit of God. Our lives are defined by these points. Therefore, it is important that our antennae are up, that our hearts are open to hear those specific instructions the Lord has for us.
- **You know the Lord is speaking to you** about a given matter **when there is an indelible impression on your heart**, when **you have a thought that you know is more than just your imagination**, when **there is a confirmation in Scripture or from other brothers or sisters**.
- For sixteen years, there was nothing built on the temple foundation they had laid. Thus, it served only as a reminder to the people of their inability to do what the Lord had asked them to do. So the Lord raised up Haggai to speak to Zerubbabel and Joshua and to inspire the people to be productive once again.
- Notice that the people weren’t saying the Lord’s house shouldn’t be built. They were simply saying that, due to the enemies on the outside and the contention within, this wasn’t the time to do it. “We’ll get to it later,” they said. **“We’ll do it sometime—maybe even soon. But not right now.”** The same thing can still happen. One of the favorite attacks of the enemy is to whisper in our ears, “Next month, next year—after you buy your house, develop your career, have your family—then you can really engage yourself in doing what the Lord has called you to do.” Remember, it’s never the wrong time to do the right thing.
- **v. 5** “Consider” , a command given by the Lord five times in this book. **“Consider your ways. Search your heart,”** God calls their attention to something which is very practical and important. Look at what is happening

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The People’s Obedience (vs. 12-15)

Hag 1:12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the LORD.

Hag 1:13 Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, spoke the LORD's message to the people, saying, "I am with you, says the LORD."

Hag 1:14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

Hag 1:15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.

The Coming Glory of God’s House (vs. 1-9) – Be Patient

– vs. 14-20 - Hag 2:1 In the seventh month, on the twenty-first of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying:

Hag 2:2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying:

Hag 2:3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?

Hag 2:4 Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts.

Hag 2:5 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!'

v. 12 A Notice that they did two things: (1) They obeyed God. As Samuel the prophet had said to a disobedient king, "... to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1Sa 15:22). Also (2) they feared God. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom ..." (Pro 9:10).

v. 13 When they obey God and fear Him, they receive this wonderful confirmation from Him. He says, "I am *with* you." How wonderful!

v. 14 It is pretty important to see the leadership of the nation in action. Zerubbabel was the civil leader, the governor. He was in the kingly line and was the son of Shealtiel, whose name means "asking of God in prayer." And Joshua, the high priest, was the son of Jehozadak who was high priest at the time of the Babylonian invasion. So we see here the civil and religious leaders joining in with the people in doing the work of the Lord.

v. 15 I According to verse 1, the message came on the first day of the month. Here, we see that on the twenty-fourth day of the month, the people were at work. This means that within twenty-three days, the people heard the word, gathered their materials, got organized, and continued that which they had begun sixteen years ago. Haggai is one of the blessed prophets in the Bible because, rather than being despised as most of the other prophets were, the hearts of the people were stirred.

v. 1 Notice that this took place in the seventh month—the previous time they heard God's message of encouragement was in the sixth month. So now they had been working for a month. They had spent about twenty-four days getting organized, and now the temple is beginning to go up. There is great enthusiasm as they see their progress. And they remember God's encouraging, "I am with you."

v. 2 This message is directed to the same group of people whom God had encouraged in the previous chapter, the same leaders and the same people.

v. 3 There's always a great danger in looking back. "It's not like it was back in 1906," we say. "The Holy Ghost was really moving then." You can fall prey to this mindset even if you're only eighteen or twenty years old any time you start comparing the new with the old. The Lord is always looking ahead to new wine, to a new work of the Spirit (Matthew 9:17).

v. 4 Again, the assurance, the strength, the confidence, is that I am with you. Even though this temple may be pitiful in comparison with the former, yet be strong, work, do it, because I am with you.

v. 5 Though this new building was not impressive, God says, "My spirit remains among you." That was a great deal better than a very ornate temple which was devoid of the presence of God.

- **Chap. 1 v.7 – Consider Your Ways!** - It's good, every once in a while just stop and evaluate your life. Just examine your life. The Bible tells us, that "*if we would examine ourselves we would not be judged of God.*" And sometimes, when you're going through some real problems, real financial difficulties perhaps, when you're just not satisfied, when your heart is not at rest, sometimes it's good just to take a look at yourself. And just check,
- **How is my relationship with God?**
- **How is my devotional life?**
- **How much time am I spending with God?**
- **How much of what I have, am I spending for God?**
- **What are the real interests in my life?**
- **Where's the real priority?**
- **Many times we will discover that in the intervening time, our priorities have got sort of messed up. We put a greater emphasis upon our own comforts, upon our own interests, and we have forsaken the things of the Lord.** And a lot of times we say, "Oh, I'll get around to my relationship with God;" and there's still that belief and there's still that place for God, but it isn't the first place any longer. And this is the condition of these people, and God is calling them to stop and consider now, 'just look at what's going on. You're crops are failing, you're not satisfied. Things are really not going well.'
- Chap.2 -According to verse 1, the message came on the first day of the month. Here, we see that on the twenty-fourth day of the month, the people were at work. This means that **within twenty-three days, the people heard the word, gathered their materials, got organized, and continued that which they had begun sixteen years ago!** Haggai is one of the blessed prophets in the Bible because, rather than being despised as most of the other prophets were, the hearts of the people were stirred. As a result, they rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

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OBSERVATION	INTERPRETATION	APPLICATION
<p><i>Hag 2:6 'For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land;</i></p> <p><i>Hag 2:7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.</i></p> <p><i>Hag 2:8 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts.</i></p> <p><i>Hag 2:9 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts.'"</i></p> <p><u>The People are Defiled (vs. 10-14)</u></p> <p><i>Hag 2:10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,</i></p> <p><i>Hag 2:11 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Now, ask the priests concerning the law, saying,</i></p> <p><i>Hag 2:12 'If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew, wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?' ' ' Then the priests answered and said, "No."</i></p> <p><i>Hag 2:13 And Haggai said, 'If one who is unclean because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?' So the priests answered and said, 'It shall be unclean.'"</i></p> <p><i>Hag 2:14 Then Haggai answered and said, ' 'So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,' says the LORD, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.</i></p> <p><u>Promised Blessing (vs. 15-19) – Be Prosperous</u></p> <p><i>Hag 2:15 'And now, carefully consider from this day forward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the LORD—</i></p>	<p>v. 6 H</p> <p>v. 7 There would indeed be a shaking of the nations. The Medes and Persians, who had conquered the Babylonians, would themselves be conquered by the Greeks. The Greeks would, in turn, be conquered by the Romans. And the Romans would rule the rest of the nations with an iron fist</p> <p>v. 8 The Lord lacks for nothing. Therefore, if He desired an ornate house, He could have had it</p> <p>v. 9 That Jesus, the Prince of Peace, would walk and work in this temple makes its glory infinitely greater than Solomon’s temple. This temple is lacking much of the former temple that Solomon had built where the presence of God came down and rested upon the temple. But he speaks of a yet future glory. Where the LORD Himself shall dwell in the midst of the people and the glory of that temple will exceed, will be greater than the former; for the LORD of hosts will be there and will give peace.</p> <p>Initial fulfillment - Haggai’s word was fulfilled 500 years later when Jesus Christ entered the temple (Luke 2:22,46;19:45).</p> <p>vs. 10-14 Haggai’s third message came in December—directed not toward the hands or the heart of the people but toward their heads, their minds. Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, says the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean. Haggai was to pose two questions to the priests. “If a piece of meat that has been offered to the Lord accidentally touches some other object, does the object it touches become holy?” “No,” the priests answered. Second, “If someone is ceremonially unclean because he touched a dead body, can he make others ceremonially unclean by touching them?” “Yes,” the priests answered. Simply put, holiness cannot be passed on—but corruption and pollution can be. In other words, if you hang around sin, you can’t help but be affected. But simply hanging around a church doesn’t make you a Christian. You’ve got to be obedient to the Lord personally.</p> <p>v. 15 I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chap 2, v. 3 There’s always a great danger in looking back. That’s why Paul said, “Forgetting those things which lie behind, I press on” (Philippians 3:13, 14). “It’s not like it was back in the Tend Days,” we say. “The Holy Ghost was really moving then.” You can fall prey to this mindset even if you’re only eighteen or twenty years old any time you start comparing the new with the old. The Lord is always looking ahead to new wine, to a new work of the Spirit (Matthew 9:17). Chap 2, v. 9 That Jesus, the Prince of Peace, would walk and work in this temple makes its glory infinitely greater than Solomon’s temple. Chap 2, v. 19 Simply put, holiness cannot be passed on—but corruption and pollution can be. In other words, if you hang around sin, you can’t help but be affected. But simply hanging around a church doesn’t make you a Christian. You’ve got to be obedient to the Lord personally. Could it be that the blessings of God have been withheld from your life because you’ve sort of shuttled God off to a secondary position in your life?. That the reason why you’re going through a lot of the problems, the reason why you’re experiencing hardship, financial difficulties, is that you haven’t kept God and the work of God as a top priority in your life. But you’ve just sort of let it slid, let it slip. You’ve become so absorbed in your own things that you’ve just sort of left God out. Now they responded to the word of the prophet. They started building again, they committed themselves once more to the work of the building of the temple and so God said, “OK, mark your calendar, from this day on I’m going to bless you.” Chap 2, v. 23 “Zerubbabel (his name may mean “pressed out of Babel; born of Babel; sown in Babel) , I know your heart must be heavy,” the Lord said. “I know the work has not been going well these past sixteen years. But know this, Zerubbabel: I’ve chosen you and I know your heart is right. Therefore, you will be like a signet—in a position of great authority.”

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OBSERVATION

Hag 2:16 since those days, when one came to a heap of twenty ephahs, there were but ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw out fifty baths from the press, there were but twenty.
Hag 2:17 I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me,' says the LORD.
Hag 2:18 'Consider now from this day forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid—consider it:
Hag 2:19 Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you.' "

Zerubbabel Chosen as a Signet (vs. 20-23)

Hag 2:20 And again the word of the LORD came to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying,
Hag 2:21 "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth.
Hag 2:22 I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother.
Hag 2:23 'In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,' says the LORD, 'and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,' says the LORD of hosts.

Cf. - Jer 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—
Jer 31:32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.
Jer 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

INTERPRETATION

vv. 16-17 P “Why is it that, when you go to the presses, you’re only getting half as much wine as you hoped for?” It’s because you’ve been corrupted.” As Ezra tells us, the people had been holding their religious services—but for the past sixteen years, they had been disobedient to the single thing the Lord had told them to do. Consequently, everything they did was adversely affected. The same is still true. If the Lord has specifically told us to do something and we say, “Later,” our disobedience will pollute and corrupt all of our undertakings. It’s not that the Lord is punishing us. It’s that He’s nudging us back in the right direction. If you’re wondering why things aren’t working, it could be that God is chastening you not to punish you but to correct you.

vs. 18-19 Consider now,” the Lord said. “Use your heads. Realize that you can be prosperous by doing that which I told you to do. From the very day you start obeying, I’ll start blessing.” Maybe it’s been fifteen years since you started doing what the Lord called you to do but you have since neglected it. Do it now. Be obedient to what He’s told you to do. If He’s called you to pray, pray. If He’s called you to study the Word with intensity, get back to studying. If He’s called you to witness, witness. If He’s called you to be a singer, write songs and sing. If He’s called you to be hospitable, open your house regularly. If He’s called you to the mission field, go. Don’t say the time is not now. Neglecting to do what He’s called you to do will lead to great emptiness in your life.

vs. 20-21 I bet Zerubbabel’s knees were knocking at this point. “Oh, no,” he must have thought. “Now I’m going to get a word against me. For sixteen years, I’ve been in charge of this project and nothing’s been happening.”

v. 22-23 “I know your heart must be heavy,” the Lord said. “I know the work has not been going well these past sixteen years. But know this, Zerubbabel: I’ve chosen you and I know your heart is right. Therefore, you will be like a signet—in a position of great authority.” Indeed he was, for in the genealogies of Jesus—Joseph’s line presented by Matthew and Mary’s presented by Luke—Zerubbabel’s name is the only one in both lines (Matthew 1:12; Luke 3:27). Thus, his place in the lineage of Messiah is unique. In addition to this, most scholars believe that after the Lord shakes the nations in the Tribulation, Zerubbabel will hold a key position in the millennial kingdom. It greatly encourages me that Haggai ends on this note, for in it the Lord seems to say, “David was prohibited from building the temple because his hands were bloody, but I counted to his credit the fact that he wanted to build it (2 Samuel 7). Zerubbabel, even though the building languished a bit, I see that your heart is right. And you will be rewarded accordingly.” Therefore, take hope, dear friends. If it’s been sixteen years since you’ve done the work God called you to do, get going again. And know that if your heart is right, the Lord hasn’t given up on you. On the contrary, He’ll use you powerfully—just as we’ll see Him do with Zerubbabel in the Book of Zechariah. Cf – Ez. Chaps 44-46 – the prince?

Let's be found faithful, and then let's work. This is the message of the little Book of Haggai.

APPLICATION

Indeed he was, for in the genealogies of Jesus—Joseph’s line presented by Matthew and Mary’s presented by Luke—Zerubbabel’s name is the only one in both lines (Matthew 1:12; Luke 3:27). Thus, his place in the lineage of Messiah is unique. In addition to this, most scholars believe that after the Lord shakes the nations in the Tribulation, Zerubbabel will hold a key position in the millennial kingdom. It greatly encourages me that Haggai ends on this note, for in it the Lord seems to say, “**David was prohibited from building the temple because his hands were bloody, but I counted to his credit the fact that he wanted to build it (2 Samuel 7).** Zerubbabel, even though the building languished a bit, **I see that your heart is right. And you will be rewarded accordingly.**” Therefore, take hope, dear friends. **If it’s been sixteen years since you’ve done the work God called you to do, get going again. And know that if your heart is right, the Lord hasn’t given up on you. On the contrary, He’ll use you powerfully—just as we’ll see Him do with Zerubbabel in the Book of Zechariah.**

I SURRENDER ALL!

All to Jesus, I surrender; All to Him I freely give;
 I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

Refrain

*I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
 I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender; Humbly at His feet I bow,
 Worldly pleasures all forsaken; Take me, Jesus, take me now.
Refrain

All to Jesus, I surrender; Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
 Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine.
Refrain

All to Jesus, I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee;
 Fill me with Thy love and power; Let Thy blessing fall on me.
Refrain

All to Jesus I surrender; Now I feel the sacred flame.
 O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory, to His Name!
Refrain

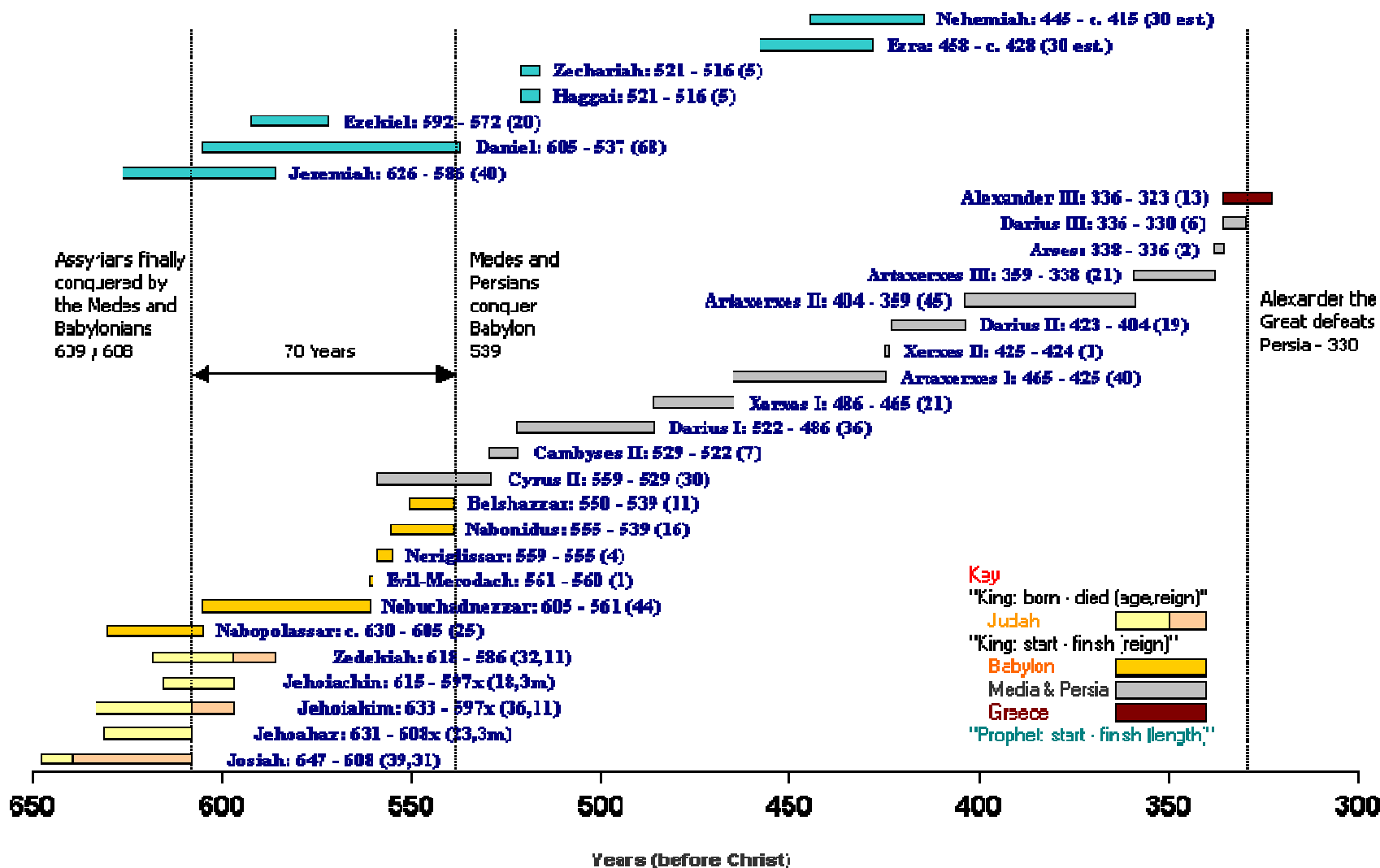
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Events Leading to the Building of the Second (Zerubbabel) Temple:

1 - Cyrus was prophesied by Isaiah at least 100 years before Cyrus was born; before the Babylonian captivity and about 170 years before Cyrus issued the command to restore and rebuild the temple. -- (Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah (792-740 B.C.); Jotham (752-736 B.C.); Ahaz (736-720 B.C.); Hezekiah (729-699 B.C.)

Isa 44:28 *Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."*

Isa 45:1 *"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I*

have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:

2 - Cyrus’ command - **Ezr 1:1-2** (about 537 B.C.) Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, [2] Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.

Ezr 6:3 *In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: "Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid, its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits,*

3 – Israelites first returned from Babylon around 538 B.C. (Cyrus the Persian captured Babylon in 538 B.C.). They planned to keep Cyrus’ command to rebuild the temple but soon became discouraged, having only restored the altar and the foundations.

4 – **Haggai begins his ministry about 520 B.C.** – his first message is August 29, 520 B.C., (In the second year, the six month reign of King Darius) about 16 years after the Israelites had stopped their work on rebuilding the temple. His first message was one of questioning and convicting, **directing peoples’ hands** – **“Be Productive”**. The people responded greatly and in 23 days resumed their construction work!

5 – His second message given about October 17, 520 B.C. It was one of encouragement to be strong and of good courage, the Lord was with them – **directed toward the peoples’ hearts** – **“Be Patient!”**

6 - Haggai’s third message was about December 18, 520 B.C. It was a message concerning their holiness and need to worship and to study and keep the law – directed **toward the peoples’ heads/minds** – **“Be Prosperous”!**

7 – The temple was finished in about four year - in the 11th month of the sixth year of Darius’ reign. (516-515 B.C.) **Ezr 6:15** *Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. [16] Then the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the descendants of the captivity, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.*

Zec 4:9 *"The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.*

7. – Second group returned under Ezra around 458 B.C.; 8 – Nehemiah – around 445-415 B.C.

