

Haggai

Synthetic reading 2008281700

Haggai prophesied to people who had returned after the 70 years of Babylonian exile. Persia had risen to prominence, Babylon had fallen, and the remnant who were held captive had returned to the land of Judah and to Jerusalem.

Haggai confronted this post-exilic people about neglecting God because they had returned and had built their personal residences without prioritizing the rebuilding of the temple. Haggai challenged the people to consider their ways and to recognize the consequences of neglecting God. Then Zerubbabel, the governor, and Joshua, the high priest, and all the remnant obeyed the Word of the Lord and went to work on the temple.

The next month, Haggai prophesied to encourage the people when the rebuilding project didn't meet the expectations of the people. He prophesied again 2 months after that to lead them to work not only with dedication but also with consecration. Finally, Haggai in that same month prophesied that God was going to shake some new realities into existence and to overthrow and destroy kingdoms. When that happened, God wanted Zerubbabel to know that he had been chosen by God.

Haggai reminds us that our faithfulness and obedience are key ingredients to God working God's will and God's purposes in the earth. When we choose to respond with dedication and consecration, with purity and perseverance, with worship and with work, we make room for God to fulfill God's promises and possibilities in the earth.