

Week 24: The Return to Jerusalem and Rebuilding of the Temple (Ezra; Haggai; Zechariah; Several Psalms)

The Babylonians fell to the Persians in 539BC. Under the Persians' enlightened policies, exiles were allowed to return to their land. King Cyrus of Persia became God's agent, and under Sheshbazzar's leadership nearly 50,000 committed Jews migrated back to Jerusalem, arriving sometime around 536BC. Their first order of business was to restore the temple. The Gentile inhabitants of the region, however, opposed the rebuilding project, and so it stalled for twenty years.

But God raised up **Haggai** to rekindle their commitment to complete the temple under Zerubbabel's supervision. When Haggai proclaimed God's command to rebuild the temple, giving God's promises that the glory of the second temple would

exceed that of the first temple, the people obeyed with a willing heart immediately. And the temple was dedicated in 516BC, 70 years after Solomon's temple was destroyed.

Zechariah predicted the welfare of Jerusalem as God's beloved holy city (both for the nearand distant-future) through night visions and prophetic oracles. It is in these visions that he saw the King, called God's Servant and Branch, entering Jerusalem riding a donkey.

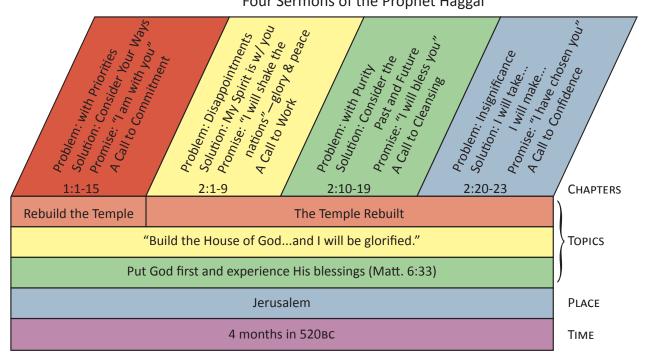
Week Twenty-Four Reading Plan

Ezra 1:1-11; 2:68-4:5	Cyrus Allows the Exiles to Return
Daniel 10:1-12:3	Daniel's Last Vision
Ezra 4:1-24	Opposition to Rebuilding the Temple
Haggai 1:1-2:23	A Call to Rebuild the Temple
Zechariah 1:1-21	A Call to Return to the Lord
Ezra 6:1-22	The Temple's Dedication
Choose a Psalm 120-134	Psalms of a Nation Restored

		Timeline After the Babylonian Captivity			
Persian Kings	Date of Reign	Biblical Events	References	Dates	
Cyrus	559-530	Edict by Cyrus that the Israelites/Jews could return to Jerusalem	Ezra 1:1-4	538	
		1 st return 50,000 with Zerubabbel to build temple	Ezra 2	538	
		Temple foundation laid	Ezra 3:1-4:5	536	
Cambyses	530-522				
Smerdis	522				
Darius I	521-486	Haggai prophesied	Haggai	520	
		Zechariah prophesied	Zechariah	520-51	
		Temple completed	Ezra 5-6	516	
Xerex (Ahasuerus)	485-465	Accusations brought against Judah	Ezra 4:6	486	
		Esther became queen	Esther 2:17	479	
Artaxerxes I (Artashasta)	464-424	Artaxerxes stopped the rebuilding of Jerusalem	Ezra 4:7-23	464-45	
		2 nd return of 5,000 exiles with Ezra to teach the law and reform the people	Ezra 7-10	458	
		3 rd return under Nehemiah to build the walls of Jerusalem	Nehemiah	444	
		Nehemiah's second return	Nehemiah 13:6	430	
		Malachi prophesied	Malachi	450-43	

HAGGAI – Build God's Temple

Four Sermons of the Prophet Haggai



Chapter 1

Chapter

1

ZECHARIAH – Build Your Future

Chapter 14

Chapter

2

	Encouragement & Metivation								Encouragement & Hone							
(Encouragement & Motivation									Encouragement & Hope					
	Purpose was to motivate those working on the temple to continue in spite of their own crops failures and financial distress. Rather										better day was to come. Messiah is revealed					
TOPICS (than rebuking, Zechariah inspired the people to work.									as coming, rejected, returning, & victorious!						
	I will live in your midst								You will be My people				I will come			
l	Turn away from evil								Ρ	rovide	justic	Worship				
	8 Visions									4 Sermons of Obedience				2 Burdens		
	Call to Repent	Horses & Riders	& 4 Craftsmen	Measuring Line	Joshua (the priest) Clothed	& Olive Trees	Scroll & Warning	n in a Basket	Crowned Priest	In Fasting	In Administering Justice	In Restoration	People to God	Against the Nations	For Israel's Consolation	
	A (Н	4 Horns {	Surveyor & a N	Joshua (the p	Lampstand	Flying Scr	A Woman in	4 Chariots & C		In Admini		In Bringing I	Again	For Israe	
Chapters	I	I	I	2	3	4	5	5	6	7-8			9-12			
Тіме	520-518BC During the rebuilding of the temple After the completion 480BC											BC				
PLACE	Jerusalem															