

HAGGAI – SHORT VERSION

Historical Context. Post-exilic prophecy begins with Haggai who receives the word of the Lord during the reign of the Persian King, Darius (520BC). King Darius has allowed the Jewish exiles to return to their homeland. Upon arrival, the exiles set about the task of rebuilding their homes and the Temple. The Samaritans had succeeded in blocking the rebuilding of the Temple, but after Darius ascends the throne, permission is once again given to resume the work. But the rebuilding project is also delayed because the people have given priority to rebuilding their own lives. This is when Haggai arrives on the scene. God uses him to jumpstart the Temple project. Haggai seeks to light a fire under his fellow Jews.

Division of chapters. The two chapters can be divided into five oracles:

- Exhortation to rebuild the Temple (Ch. 1)
- Future glory of the new Temple (2:1-9)
- Rejection of the offerings of the unclean (2:10-14)
- Promise of immediate blessings (2:15-19)
- Pledge to Zerubbabel (2:20-23)