

The Book of Ezra

REPENT - RETURN - REBUILD - RESTORE



Thursday Morning Bible Class
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Wauwatosa, WI

1

Chapter 5:1

† **1 – It is 520 BC. The people have been back in Jerusalem for 16 years. The temple foundation has been laid, but nothing after that.**

† **The Chronicler introduces the prophets Haggai and Zechariah whose mission it was to get the temple finished.**

2

Haggai the Prophet

† **1 – We are given the precise date that Haggai begins his preaching – Aug. 28, 520 BC.**

† **Don't know who Haggai is, where he comes from or anything about him other than he was probably in his 70's, since he remembered the first temple.**

† **2 – His message: Finish the temple!**

3

Haggai the Prophet

- † 3-4 – Haggai ridicules their delaying attitude by uncovering their selfish motives – taking care of self before taking care of the house of God.
- † 5-6 – Could it be that their misfortunes might be due to their neglect of God?
- † 7-8 – Do you want to rectify the situation? Go cut timber!

4

Haggai the Prophet

- † 9 – They had expected much but got little. Why? Because the house of God lies in ruins.
- † 12 – The message of Haggai had its effect. The people got busy on the temple.
- † 14 – Why did they get busy? Because the Lord “stirred up their spirit.”
- † 15 – They started on Sept. 21, 520 – 24 days later.

5

Haggai the Prophet – Chapter 2

- † 1 – Haggai’s 2nd oracle – Oct. 17, 520 BC. The last day of the Feast of Booths (Sukkoth).
- † 3 – By rhetorical questions, Haggai identifies with the older people who remembered the glory of Solomon’s temple.
- † 4 – “But now” – Haggai’s message: “I am with you,” declares the Lord.

6

Haggai the Prophet – Chapter 2

- † 5 – God’s covenant is still in effect, so they need not fear the opposition.
- † 6-7 – They are not just building a building. God will use this temple to revive his people so that from it the Messiah will come.
- † 8 – The silver and gold still belongs to God.

7

Haggai the Prophet – Chapter 2

- † 9 – The glory of this new temple will be greater than the old one because the Prince of Peace will arise from this temple.
- † 10 – Haggai’s 3rd oracle – Dec. 18, 520 BC. Its been 3 months of rebuilding and some have become discouraged.

8

Haggai the Prophet – Chapter 2

- † 11-12 – The question: If a piece of consecrated meat touches something unconsecrated, does that food become consecrated? No.
- † 13 – But if someone who is defiled touches consecrated meat, it is defiled.

9

Haggai the Prophet – Chapter 2

- † 14 – Even though they were back in the holy land, that does not make them pure. Only God can make something holy.
- † We are corrupt. God makes holy.
- † All we can offer are sinful gifts. God takes them and makes them holy – he uses them for his purposes.

10

Haggai the Prophet – Chapter 2

- † 15-17 – The problems the people had was because they neglected to rebuild the temple.
- † 18 – They actions could not make something holy.
- † 19 – But that all is going to change. God will bless them. He will consecrate what they are doing.

11

Haggai the Prophet – Chapter 2

- † 20 – Haggai’s 4th oracle – Dec. 18, 520 BC
- † 21-23 – God will treat Zerubbabel like he did Moses when he brought him out of Egypt, overthrowing kings and their armies.
- † God has chosen Zerubbabel, who stood in the Davidic line, as the one who would restore his people.

12

Aramaic Report, Part 2 – The 2nd Temple

- † Ezra 5:1 – Haggai, a layman, and Zechariah, a priest, were both acting in the name of God.
- † 2 – Zerubbabel and Jeshua, at the urging of the prophets, resumed rebuilding the temple.
- † This is the last mention of Zerubbabel in Ezra. It could be because he died during the building process, or at the end of it, as Zechariah seems to indicate.
