

# EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ  
Spring 2023

## PART 7, SECTION 1 — HAGGAI CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GOD'S TEMPLE

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT — Construction Begins & Stalls

**Ezra 3:1 to 4:5, 4:24 to 5:2** — *Date:* 538-520 BC — Cyrus's decree permitting the Jews to return to their homeland was probably issued in 538 BC (his "first year" was reckoned by the Jews to start with the Jewish new year in March 538 BC, after he conquered Babylon in October 539 BC). It took time for the first Jews to organize and travel back to Israel. They appear to have arrived in 537 BC. The altar in Jerusalem was rebuilt by the first day of the seventh month in the Jews' first year back in Jerusalem (Ezra 3:3, 3:6); the date was September/October 537 BC. The rebuilding of the temple began in the second month of the second year after their return (3:8)—spring of 536 BC—then was halted until about 520 BC, the second year of King Darius of Persia (4:24).

#### **Ezra 3:1-6 — The Altar Is Rebuilt**

3:2 — The 2 officials who led the rebuilding of the altar were \_\_\_\_\_ (the high priest; see Haggai 1:1) and \_\_\_\_\_ (the governor; Haggai 1:1).

3:3 — What effect did "the peoples around them" (non-Jews living in the land and in nearby provinces) have on those rebuilding the altar?

#### **Ezra 3:7-13 — Beginning to Rebuild the Temple**

3:7 — The Jews purchased cedar logs from \_\_\_\_\_ that were shipped to Joppa for the rebuilding of the temple.

3:8 — The temple rebuilding project was begun in the \_\_\_\_\_ month of the \_\_\_\_\_ year after the Jews' arrival at Jerusalem.

3:8 — The \_\_\_\_\_ supervised the rebuilding process.

3:10-11 — How did the people respond to the laying of the new temple's foundation?

3:12 — How did the older people who had seen the previous temple react when they saw the foundation being laid?

#### ***for group discussion...***

What range of emotions do you think the Jews witnessing the laying of the new temple's foundation were experiencing at this moment, and why?

#### **Ezra 4:1-5, 24 — Opposition to the Temple Rebuilding**

4:1-2 — How did the Jews' enemies first respond to the rebuilding effort?

4:3 — What answer did Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the other leaders give to the Jews' enemies?

4:4-5 — What was the enemies' second response to the rebuilding effort?

4:24 — The work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of \_\_\_\_\_ king of Persia (520 BC).

## HOSEA'S MESSAGE — The Time to Rebuild Has Come!

**Ezra 5:1-2, Haggai 1:1-15a** — *Date:* 520 BC — Haggai 1:1-13 dates to August 29, 520 BC (the 1st day of the 6th month of the 2nd year of Persia's King Darius, who ruled 521-486 BC; Haggai 1:1). The rebuilding of the temple had been stalled for 16 years, since about 536 BC. Rebuilding resumed on the 24th day of the 6th month of Darius's 2nd year—September 21, 520 BC (Haggai 1:14-15).

### Ezra 5:1-2

- Two new prophets, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, began to prophesy to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem.

### Haggai 1:1-13

1:1 — Haggai's message was directed especially to \_\_\_\_\_ the governor and \_\_\_\_\_ the high priest.

1:2, 1:8 — What did God want the people to do?

1:3, 1:9 — According to Haggai, what were the Jews busy with, to the neglect of the rebuilding of God's house?

### *for group discussion...*

Why were the Jews lacking in the things they needed? Why were all their efforts being frustrated?

How might someone do this today, spending all their effort on themselves to the neglect of honoring God? Think about what blessings such a person might miss out on because of their neglect of God.

### Haggai 1:14-15a

How did the leaders and the people respond to Haggai's message?

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT — Opposition to the Construction Arises

**Ezra 5:3 to 6:14a** — *Date:* maybe 520 BC — These events took place at about the time that Haggai and Zechariah were proclaiming their messages from the Lord (6:14), maybe still in 520 BC.

5:3 — Two regional officials who opposed the rebuilding of the temple were \_\_\_\_\_ the governor of Trans-Euphrates and \_\_\_\_\_.

5:17 — What did these officials ask King Darius to do about the temple rebuilding?

6:2-5 — What information about the temple in Jerusalem was found in the citadel of Ecbatana?

6:6-12 — What orders did the king give concerning the temple rebuilding?

- verses 6-7 —
- verses 8-10 —
- verse 11 —

## HOSEA'S MESSAGE — I Am With You

**Haggai 1:15ab to 2:9** — *Date:* 520 BC — This message dates to October 17, 520 BC (the 21st day of the 7th month of Darius's 2nd year; Haggai 1:15b to 2:1). It was the last day of the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

2:3 — To those who had seen the first temple, the new one being rebuilt looked like \_\_\_\_\_.

2:4 — What did God call the Jews to do?

2:5 — "And my \_\_\_\_\_ remains among you. Do not \_\_\_\_\_."

2:7 — God foretold that he would shake all nations, and what was \_\_\_\_\_ by all nations would come, and God will fill the new temple ("house") with \_\_\_\_\_.

2:9 — How would the glory of the first temple and the new temple compare in the future?

### *for group discussion...*

How was the prophecy of 2:7 fulfilled later?

2:9 — In this place, God would grant \_\_\_\_\_.