

Haggai

Purpose of the book: To encourage the remnant in Jerusalem to resume and to finish building the temple

Main individuals: *Darius 1 Hystaspes* [not the Mede] (king); {522-486 B.C.}

Haggai (prophet) {"Festive"}; don't know parents/anything else

Zerubbabel {"one born in Babylon"} (governor [civil leader]);

- = Sheshbazzar (Ezra 1:8, 5:14, 16) {Chaldean name, like Belteshazzar for Daniel}

- father was Shealtiel, of Jeconiah (2nd-last king)

Joshua (high priest [religious leader]) of Jehozadak (1 Chr. 6), of Seraiah

Written to: Zerubbabel and Joshua (1:1; Ezra 3:8)

Contemporary: Zechariah (Ezra 5:1, 6:14; Zech. 1:1) Z started 2 mos later

No temple/Mosaic worship for 70 yrs; no knowledge of rituals. Plus, overshadowed by glory of Babylon ==> (Zech 4:10). Haggai to start rebuilding + rest'n of Mosaic rituals; Z to aid in work/add + to + encouragement/incentive to those doing the work

Consists of: five messages over a four-month span (1:1, 15; 2:1, 10, 20) 520 B.C.

Christ in Haggai: 2:6-9 [Desire of all nations]; 2:22-23 [Heb 12:26]; also in spirit of 1st exhort'n (Jn 8:29 for I do always those things that please him.)

Contextual overview:

Prophets to 10 Tribes: (Hosea, Amos)

Prophets to Gentiles: (Jonah, Nahum [Assyria]; Obadiah [Edom])

Prophets to Judah:

a) in time of greatness [Uzziah to Hezekiah] (Isaiah, Joel, Micah) ~800 B.C.

b) in time of decline [Manasseh to Zedekiah] (Zephaniah, Habakkuk) ~640-610 B.C.

c) prior to Captivity (Jeremiah) ~ 629 B.C.

d) in exile (Ezekiel, Daniel) ~ 593 B.C.

e) post-exilic (Haggai, Zechariah, [beg'g of rest'n] Malachi [end of rest'n], hence diff tones) ~420

Exile: series of deportations over ~ 135 years [Israel 722 to Judah 586]; Restoration: series of returns over ~ 100 years

536 B.C. [Cyrus: (Ezra 4) built altar; laid foundation of temple]; 458 B.C. [Ezra 7 (restore law and rituals)]; 445 B.C. [Nehemiah: rebuilt wall]).

Background: 2 Chr. 36:20-23; Ezra 1:1-3 Cyrus allowed Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild temple, which they did, until enemies managed to obtain injunction to stop construction (Ezra 4:23-24). This stop-work order lasted ~ 16 years (536 – 520 B.C.), during which time people became indifferent to the task of rebuilding the temple, using the excuse that Jeremiah's prophecy of 70 years applied to *temple*, not to *captivity* (2 Chr. 36:21; Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10). Focus was on own comforts. Haggai and Zechariah are sent by God to rouse people to return to building the temple.

Haggai and Zechariah are dated by the reign of a Gentile king, as opposed to Israel's. q.v./cf other prophets (“...in the days of...”). Israel now has no king of their own; are subject to Gentiles (Lk 21:24 [“times of the Gentiles” captivity=> rapture]; Rom. 11:25 [fullness of the Gentiles => end times]).

- Message #1: (1:1-11) God questions the people's intentions/excuses
- Message #2: (1:12-15) God confirms His Presence among the people
- Message #3: (2:1-9) God assures the people of the future glory of the temple
- Message #4: (2:10-19) God reminds the people that sin affects their work
- Message #5: (2:20-23) God assures Zerubbabel that He has chosen him

Reference	Year	Month	Day	Span from previous message	Pos(+)/Neg(-)	Counterpart(s)
1:1	2	6	1	-	-	Mal. 3:10; Mt. 6:33
1:15	2	6	24	~ 3 weeks	+	Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5
2:1	2	7	21	~ 4 weeks	-/+	Zech. 4:10, 6:13; Heb. 12:26
(Zech. 1:1)	2	8		~ 1.5 weeks	-/+	
2:10	2	9	24	~ 8 weeks	-	1 Sam. 15:22
2:20	2	9	24	-	+	Jn. 15:19; Eph. 1:4
(Zech. 1:7)	2	11	24	2 months	+	
(Zech. 7:1)	4	9	4	~ 2 years	-	

Message #1 (1:1-11) v. 2 Where did “the time is not come” come from? Two 70-year periods:

606 B.C. - 536 B.C. [first year of captivity to release by Cyrus] Relates to the captivity of the *people*

586 B.C. To 516 B.C. [year of destruction of the temple to end of Jeremiah's 70 years (Jer. 25)] Relates to the *temple* 586-536 = 50 years, + 16 (536-520) + 4 (Ezra 6:15, Hag. 1:1) = 70

- Delay from excuses. Cf Felix (Acts 26). Didn't say they w/ not build @ all, just “not now”
- Veracity of WoG. Promises of Is. 2, 11, 35, 60; Jer 30-31 not fulfilled; condn's deteriorated => WoG?
- Put God first. We gain by doing so; we lose by not doing so. (Mt 6:33; Pr 3:9-10; Lev. 26:3-13; Dt. 28:1-14, 30:3-9)

Message #2 (1:12-15) “I (*have been/am/will be*) with/near you” - Jehovah (the eternal, Self-existing One)

What a message of encouragement, and quickly upon their immediate obedience.

It's as though He sees their obedience and quickly moves in to assure them that He holds nothing against them, and wants to assure them of His Presence and all that goes with that: protection, power, enablement, provisions, promises that their work will not be for nothing.

(Abraham) Gen 24:27; (servant) 26:3;(Jacob) 28:15; 31:3; 46:4; (Moses) Ex. 3:12; 33:14-15; (Israel) Dt. 31:6,8; Is. 41:10, 43:2; (Joshua) Josh. 1:5; (Gideon) Jud. 6:12, 16; (David) Ps. 23:4; (Jeremiah) Jer. 1:8

– (Us) Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5; (Paul) Acts 18:10 (cf 1 Ki. 19:18 [Elijah])

Message #3 (2:1-9) a look *back*

Now ~ 4 wks into the work, Cf 1:15, 2:1, to encourage them in their work.

Date is significant: (i) last day of Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:34, 36 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of tabernacles *for* seven days unto the LORD. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD:)

Time (Feast) of ingathering (Ex. 23:16). FoT like Lord's Supper i.e. retrospective/prospective:
1 Co 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, *ye do shew the Lord's death* (Commemorative: we look back to Calvary) *till he come*. (Prophetic/prosepective)

Commemorative: [remembering how God provided for Israel in the wilderness for 40 years **Deu 8:4** Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

but also Prophetic, pointing/looking fwd to future when Israel @ rest in her own land

Feasts: Passover (death of Christ [Christ our Passover is crucified for us]); F o Unleavened Bread (cleansing of our lives); F o Firstfruits (res'n of LJC [1 Cor 15:20]); F o Weeks = Pentecost = coming of Holy Spirit; F o Trumpets = gathering together of God's people (Church @ rapture; Israel later); Day of Atonement (Israel cleansed and they look upon Him Whom they have pierced); F o T-nacles: Israel enters into kingdom (Zech 14: 4,9,16).

(ii) Solomon dedicated his temple then. Temple finished 11 months before(!) [**1Ki 6:38** And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which *is* the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it], but waited until FoT to dedicate it. (1 Ki 8; 2 Chr 5)

- Temple superceded the T-nacle in size/cost/durability
- the Ark was the only piece of furnishing from original that was still in use. Had guided Israel in wilderness 40 years; rep'd Throne + Presence of God

v 3 Elephant in the room. God does not “skirt the issue”. History rpt'g itself (**Ezra 3:11-13**) Meets comparison of Solomon's temple and current temple head-on

(i) Look to past with regret, sorrow. Old men who remembered Temple in its glory (pillars, cedar, gold, Ark, Shekinah) wept

Ecc 7:10 Say not thou, What is *the cause* that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this. (Job 29: God/children w/ me; respected; helped; look @ me now!)

“Good old days' are a combination of a bad memory and an overactive imagination”.

Living in the past may blind us to/rob us of present opportunities.

Is. 60:22(b) I the LORD will hasten it in his time. God *is* moving; things may look like nothing is happening, but God is laying the groundwork, and when things happen, they are fast and unstoppable, viz.:

- Flood 120 years; sudden
- Fall of Babylon, literally overnight [Dan 5:30](#) In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.
- Gal 4:4 world prep'd; prep'd by Romans (roads), Greeks (language) for spread of gospel
- Berlin wall (June 12/87 “take down...wall” => Nov 9/89 glasnost+perestroika =>hope [29 mos])
- Rapture (1 Cor. 15: 52 “in a moment...changed” = atom of time; smallest, indivisible)
- Return of Lord Jesus Christ (Zech. 14:1-3; Rev. 18:17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought.)

(ii) Look around in the present in despair Zech. 4:10; 1 Sam. 16:7 God sees things differently than we do, (for the LORD seeth not as man seeth;); so we do not do well to judge by appearance or before the time (1 Cor. 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come)

God's ways of doing things is opposite to ours (Is 55: 8-9 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.)

God uses *broken* things (Gen. 32:24-31 Jacob's hip); (Jud. 7:19-25 Gideon's pitchers); (Mk 14: 3-9 Mary's alabaster box); (Mk 6:32-44 bread in feeding of 5,000)

God uses *small* things

What does God do when He want to make a big change? Sends a baby:

- Ex 2 Moses; freed Israel from Egypt/slavery
- 1 Sam 1 Samuel brought change in Israel via Word, prayer
- Mt 1/Lk 1-2 LJC Heb 2:9, 14-15

Small in \$: Mk 12: 41-44 widow's mites.

- Yet, Divine estimation: > all (combined!) *this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:*
- seems small/insig, yet recorded/immortalised in Word. (Ps 119:89; Mt 5:18)
- brought joy/delight to Him, b/c reflected Godliness of giving: God giving (Jn 3:16); Son giving (Heb. 9:14 Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God (Gal 2:20 the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.)
- just finished opposition from Herodians/Sadducees/Pharisees – then this illustration of faith

Small in #: Lk 17:17 “but where are the nine?”

- Gideon's army
- Jn 6/Mk 8 feed'g of 5k/4k – w/ little There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fish: but what are they among so many?

Small in stature: - little boy's lunch

- Mk 10:15 children **Whoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.**
- "little maid" 2 Ki 5: prophet...w/ cure him... => Naaman healed of leprosy
- Paul's nephew Acts 23:19 "young man, who hath s/t to say...took him by the hand"

(iii) Look **up** in faith and anticipation. Dt. 31:9-13 Law read @ Feast of Tabernacles v. 4 (3x) "Be strong" "Lord of Hosts" [of heaven, stars, armies] 6x in vv. 4-9

- Dt. 31:6, 7, 23 "Be strong" + God's Presence (6, 8, 23)
- Josh 1:6, 7, 9 "Be strong" + God's Presence (5, 9)
- 1 Chron. 22:13; 28:10, 20 "Be strong" + God's Presence (28:20)

5 Assurance comes from the Word of God. "covenant" = "cut" (**Gen 15?**) Promise of son/descendants. Heifer/goat/ram cut; laid parts, vv 12, 17-18

The Word and the Spirit remain among them

Exo 29:45-46 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall know that I *am* the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I *am* the LORD their God.

Fear ye not **Jos 8:1; 2 Chro 20:17;**

Isa 41:10 Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Zech. 8:13, 15 And it shall come to pass, *that* as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: **fear not, but** let your hands be strong. So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: **fear ye not.**

6-7 Partially fulfilled @ 1st advent of LJC; fulfilled in entirety in future.

God had shaken Sinai when Law given. (**Ex. 19:18** the whole mount quaked greatly) L J shook "establishment" of religious rule @ the time. (healing on Sabbath; claims to Deity; denouncing hypocrisy)

cf Heb 12:26 Comparative language much like **Heb. 2:2-3** (spoken by *angels*...spoken by *Lord*),

10:28-29 (despised *Moses'* law...trodden under foot *Son of God*);

1 Pt. 4:17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the *house of God*: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of *them that obey not the gospel of God*?;

Mt. 11:20-24 (Chorazin/Bethsaida vs. Tyre/Sidon; Capernaum vs. Sodom)

arguing from < to >; > privilege > responsibility. Speaks of passing of temporary replaced by permanent

cf **Mt. 24:29-30** God will shake (not convert or heal) world after Tribulation. (Does not fit 1st coming)
“shaking of nations” = Tribulation prior to coming of Messiah

“little while”: used in **Ps. 37:10** (wicked shall not be); **Is. 10, 29** (God's anger will cease; Lebanon will be fruitful); **Jer 51** (Babylon will be punished);

520 years to birth of Christ; Church age ~ 2,000 years

2 Pt. 3:8 that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (1 k yrs as 1 day) Times means nothing to God, since He is eternal

Heb 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

“(D)esire of all nations” **Gen. 12:3, 22:18** and in thee (and in thy seed) shall all families of the earth be blessed.

(Can read pleasant/precious things; i.e. desirable things/treasures of the nations will be used for His glory)

49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

Ps. 22:27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Is. 2:2-4, Mic. 4:1-3

Zech. 2:11 And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

8:20-23; 14:16-17

“I will fill this house with glory” (veiled glory @ 1st coming; revealed glory @ 2nd ==> millennial temple)

Jn 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father)

cf AJH 1 Cor 3: “not size, but sort” this temple may have < gold, but will have > glory

Verse 8 **1 Chron. 29:14** But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? *for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.* O LORD our God, *all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.*

God owns all gold and silver anyway, so even though this temple would have less gold than Solomon's temple, it will have more glory -- it would have Presence and glory of God Himself in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Lk 2:42-49** [12 yrs old]; **Mt. 21:12-14**; (cleansing) **Acts 5:20** Go, stand and speak in

the temple to the people all the words of this life. ,

5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Mt 12:42 [> Solomon is here]

9 **Mt. 12:6** But I say unto you, That in this place is *one* greater than the temple. Zerubbabel's temple was not superior to Solomon's due to size, ornateness, beauty, wealth, or duration, but in glory, in the Personal Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Jn. 1:14, 14:9** (He who hath seen me has seen the Father);

Zec 6:12-13 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

Col 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

"I will give peace" Peace in Jerusalem (Ps 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem), **Is. 9:6**;
Has not happened yet, so must be future fulfillment

Mic 5:5 And this *man* shall be the peace

personal peace **Rom. 5:1** being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our L J C

Col. 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross,

Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition

Message #4 (2:10-19) a Look within

"This" people, not "My" people (v. 14). Cf 1:2 Implies some distance.

(Zech began his ministry between last msg and this one – w/ a call to repentance)

People doing the work of reldg temple, but not with pure motives. They were doing the good work, but hearts were not right w/ God. (V. 17: ye did not turn to Me")

Ppl c/ transmit defilement to temple; temple c/ not transmit holiness to them. (Eph 6:6)

We cannot transmit holiness, but we can transmit defilement. (Think health: we can transmit sickness, but not well-being)

Sin will negate any good that we do. **1 Sam. 15:22** And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams. ;

2 Sam. 6 (bringing ark on cart, not priest's shoulders);

Ps. 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

Pr. 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight.

Is. 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags;

2:15 cf **1:5, 7** “**Consider**” blight (drought); mildew (> moisture). Problems cont'd.

16 cf **Mal. 3:10-11** Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

the destroyer (vermin/spoilage/theft?)

“*there*” (v. 14) = altar of **Ezra 3:2-3** Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as *it is* written in the law of Moses the man of God. And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear *was* upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, *even* burnt offerings morning and evening.

Refers to how they had been, but with their repentance, that will bring a change in results (v. 18-19) It is a warning as well to not revert to how they had been.

Mt. 6:33 Give to God His portion first, then we'll have more to give. Man says, “Seeing is believing”; God says (Jn. 11:40 “Believe, and you will see”)

1 Ki. 17:13 widow of Zarephath (“make me first a little cake”). God operates on principle of faith

“windows of heaven” implies sudden, q.v. **Gen. 7:11** In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and *the windows of heaven* were opened.

2 Ki. 7:2 Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, *if* the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be?

Verses 18-19 cf **2 Chr 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. “Consider” = “lay it to heart”, ponder, think about it.

Pr. 3:9-10 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Message #5 (2:20-23) a look ahead

vv. 10-19 = a word to the *people*; vv. 20-23 = a (personal) word to *Zerubbabel*, as civil leader of ppl.

Not fulfilled in Z's time. Looks to future, w/ Z as type of LJC

- cf v. 22 w/ Zech 1:11 (all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest) [11th month, 24th day of 2nd year]
- *universal* o'throw of kingdoms
- Z brought remnant to Jerusalem as LJ has brought us from sin; Z built temple as LJ is bldg Church; Z protected from Samaritans as LJ is protecting His Church; Z was dear to God as LJ is

I will shake heaven/earth/nations (cf 2:6-7) [Job 38:12-13], but will protect Israel

I will overthrow ..(Ps. 2? Dan. 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings:

4:25 till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

I will destroy (**Dt. 32:8** When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.;

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; (geographical + historical bounds)

I will overthrow (Ps. 20, **Ex 15:1** the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.)

v. 23 My servant, signet, singled out

I will take thee...My **servant**

I will make thee as a **signet** (authority, power, beauty, precious (Est. 3:10, 12 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman...and sealed with the king's ring; 8:2,8))

I have chosen thee Is 42:1 of LJC;

Jn 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Eph. 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,;

2 Thes. 2:13 because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: ; **Heb. 3:1** ; **Jas. 2:5**; **1 Pt. 1:2,15, 2:9, 5:13**; **2 Pt. 1:10**)

Servant: (Abraham Gen. 26:24); Moses (Num. 12:7); Caleb (Num. 14:24); David (2 Sam. 3:18); Job (Job 1:8); Isaiah (Is. 20:3); Eliakim (Is. 22:20); Israel (Is. 41:8); Jacob (Is. 45:8); (unnamed) Is. 42:15; Nebuchadnezzar (Jer. 25:9); Zerubbabel (Hag. 2:23); the BRANCH (Zech. 3:8)

Summaries/Relevance to today:

- **Any works of God [(Noah's) Ark, Tabernacle; Temple(s); revivals] are started, sustained, and encouraged by the Word of God**

Ezra 5:1-2 Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that *were* in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, *even* unto them. Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem: and with them *were* the prophets of God helping them.

- **Ezra 6:14; Hag 1:14; Zec 4:9**
- **We need to put God first (Pr. 3:19; Mt 6:33)**. Doing so will result in blessings of protection, provisions, success, guidance. (Palestinian Covenant); we experience loss if we don't
- **Dt. 29:9; Josh. 1:7-9; 1 Ki. 2:3; 1 Chron. 22:13**

BUT [i] (Danger of prosperity gospel? -What's in it for me? Mt 20 in answer to Peter

[ii] No such guarantee for blvrs today. Operate on different principle. No such guaranteed link b/w behaviour and blessing. Often bad things happen **B/C** we obey. AJH re: Jake from Shechem => Bethel: 2 funerals @ Bethlehem. q.v. Disciples in storm in boat; days shall was worse²; all who live godly in CJ will suffer persecution

- **We need the power of God to do His work**. [God] 2 Chron. 26:15-16(a) ; 1 Cor 1:26-31, **1 Cor 2:5** That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. **Php 2:13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

- **[Christ]** Jn. 15:5 **for without me ye can do nothing**. ; 4:13; I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
- **[Spirit]** Zech. 4:6 Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD
- **We need to guard ourselves during the work**. **1 Pt. 1:15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; . Work takes its character from those who do the work (**Ex 31:1-7**; cf David vs. modern artists/musicians/authors)
- **We need to work together**. (Haggai an old man; Zechariah younger) 1 Cor. 3:6, 9 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. For we are labourers together with God

3 Jn 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

- **We can't always go by appearances; Things are not always what they seem**. We do works of faith, for the future, and for God's glory. **Heb 11:10, 13** For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Hag 2:9

- **God equips and encourages those who do His work** (Moses; Joshua; Gideon; Solomon; Ezra)