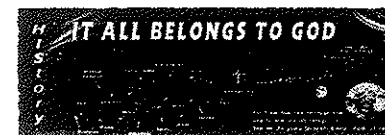


Israel's Timeline from David to Restoration

King David's reign	1005BC - 964 BC
King Solomon's reign	964BC - 928 BC
United Kingdom splits in two after Solomon dies. <i>Rehoboam (Solomon's son) over Southern Kingdom's two tribes Jeroboam is over the Northern Kingdoms ten tribes</i>	928BC
Assyrians conquer Northern kingdom <i>The ten tribes are taken captive and scattered never to return</i>	721BC
Babylonians under Naborplassar conquer the Assyrians His son King Nebuchadnezzar takes the throne; Babylon exerts control over Judah by God's will <i>Daniel and the royal court of Israel are taken to Babylon</i>	626BC 610BC 606BC
Babylon attacks Judah sets up puppet ruler-Zedekiah <i>(takes more exiles back to Babylon)</i>	597BC
Babylonians destroy all of Jerusalem including the Temple <i>The surviving Jews become the last wave of exiles; Daniel, and Ezekial writes their books while in Babylonian captivity</i>	586BC
The Medes/Persians led by Cyrus the Great conquer Babylon King Cyrus allows Jews to return and orders the Temple rebuilt Work begins to rebuild Temple.	539BC 538BC 536BC
King Darius succeeds King Cyrus The Temple is consecrated for worship, 70 years after the Babylonians had destroyed it.	521BC 516BC
King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) succeeds King Darius <i>Esther, the namesake for the Bible book of Esther was married to Xerxes The books of Ezra, Esther, and Nehemiah cover the historical period of Israel's captivity in Babylon and the period immediately following their return to Jerusalem.</i>	486BC
King Artaxerxes succeeds King Xerxes, who is his father Nehemiah makes his request of King Artaxerxes King Artaxerxes orders the rebuilding of Jerusalem	464BC 445BC 445BC

Sierra Community Church June 21st, 2009-Dan Wilvers
The Story of God's People- Part 10

**Making A Comeback
on God's Terms**
(The Story of the Prophet Haggai)



Ezra Records the hand of God on Persian King Cyrus:

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the Lord fulfilled the prophecy he had given through Jeremiah. He stirred the heart of Cyrus to put this proclamation in writing and to send it throughout his kingdom: 2 "This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you! Ezra 1:1-3

**After a great start the temple work lies dormant for 15 years
God sends his prophet Haggai to confront the stoppage**

1st Roadblock: A Poor Excuse

"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.'"

Haggai 1:2

God's answer: *"Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?"*

Haggai 1:4

The Point: You are not willing to put God first in your life.

The evidence of their betrayal:

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! 6 You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!

Haggai 1:5,6

God's Command:

Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Vs.8

The infallible rule for all who call God their God.

"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."
Matthew 6:33

Additional Notes:

The result:

...the whole remnant of God's people began to obey the message from the Lord their God. ... "I am with you, says the Lord!" So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm of Zerubbabel ..., governor of Judah, and the enthusiasm of Jeshua ..., the high priest, and the enthusiasm of the whole remnant of God's people. They began to work on the house of their God,... vs. 12-14

2nd Roadblock: No Gold or Silver

'Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all!
Haggai 2:1-3

God's answer: *...get to work, for I am with you,... 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine. The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, ... And in this place I will bring peace. I, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!"*
Haggai 2:4b,8,9

The Point: This is the temple Jesus, Himself, will enter one day.

God's Promise of blessing for their work:

19 I am giving you a promise now while the seed is still in the barn. You have not yet harvested your grain, and your grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees have not yet produced their crops. But from this day onward I will bless you."
Haggai 2:19

The Point: Obedience is always met with Blessing

"Tell Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, that I am about to shake the heavens and the earth. 22 I will overthrow royal thrones and destroy the power of foreign kingdoms.
Haggai 2:21-22

In that day, says the Lord of hosts, will I take you, O Zerubbabel, My servant, the son of Shealtiel, says the Lord, and will make you [through the Messiah, your descendant] My signet ring; for I have chosen you [as the one with whom to renew My covenant to David's line], says the Lord of hosts.

Haggai 2:23-24