

New England Bible Conference

October 16, 2010

God's Messages – by Haggai

Background: By a sovereign act of God (Prov. 21:1) Cyrus the Persian ruler provides the means and opportunity for those of a willing mind to return to Judah/Jerusalem with a special mission to build “the house of the Lord God of Israel”. (Ezra 1:1-4). There was much zeal in carrying out the task of building the house of God. When the foundation was laid there was great joy and excitement and two things happened: 1) The older generation who had seen the first house wept with a loud voice (Ezra 3:10-13) and 2) the enemies of Judah and Benjamin came and discouraged and weakened the hands of the workers (Ezra 4:1-5). Ultimately the work on the house ceased. Cyrus dies; there is a succession of Persian Kings; When Darius comes to power – The word of the Lord comes by Haggai four times in a four month span. The object is to look at and learn from the four messages God gave through Haggai.

Reading I Haggai 1:1-15- Message I

- 1) Consider your ways! – Misplaced priorities – v2-6
- 2) Consider your ways! – Refocused mission – v7-11
- 3) Obedience and Promise (I am with you!) – v12-15

Reading II Haggai 2:1-9 - Message II

- 1) Be strong – encouraged to work– Fear not... I am with you v 4, 5
- 2) An adjusted perspective – from now to the future v 6-9. The prophetic voice provides encouragement for now...

Haggai 2:10-19 - Message III

- 1) Understanding the call to sanctification – v 10-14
- 2) Blessing with commitment to God's plan – v 14-19

Reading III Haggai 2:20-24 – Message IV

- 1) Affirmation of God's Sovereignty over heaven and earth v21
- 2) The nations and all the kingdoms – shattered and destroyed v22
- 3) Lord Almighty will establish His anointed one – v23 (perhaps a promise of the Messiah)