

The Call to Recommit

Focal Passage: Haggai 1:1-12

Background / Summary of the Book of Haggai:

- The Babylonian Captivity ended when the Persians conquered Babylon.
- Cyrus, the king of Persia, allowed the Jews to return to the land of Judah to rebuild the temple.
- Zerubbabel, Joshua and roughly 50,000 people returned to the land to rebuild the temple.
- For two years the people worked hard to rebuild the temple.
- Work on the temple ceased because of opposition from the neighboring nations. Interestingly, opposition from anyone WAS NEVER DIRECTLY ADDRESSED in the book of Haggai.
- 16 years elapsed without any work being done on the temple. During this time the returning Jews built their own homes and comfortably settled in the land.
- God spoke to the returning Jews through Haggai the Prophet. In brief - Haggai preached four months; he preached disobedient Israel your primary task was to rebuild the temple. You must be refocused and purged of Spiritual apathy.
- Four years later the temple was completed.

Summary thoughts:

1. The calling was from God, the Lord Almighty, **1:2a**
2. God revealed the hearts and attitudes of the people toward achieving the assigned task, **1:2b**
3. God further described the problem among the Jews - who returned from Babylon, **1:3-11**
4. The leaders of Israel and the people of Judah responded to the message of the Prophet Haggai, **1:12**