



## THE MESSAGES OF HAGGAI "The Message of Encouragement" Haggai 2:1-9

No. 3994

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Discouragement set in less than a month after the returned exiles had been motivated and mobilized to embark on the rebuilding project. Haggai was called again to deliver the "word of the Lord," this time with powerful words of encouragement.

### I. The Debilitating Dynamic of Discouragement. vv. 1-3

- A. Repetitive problems with the authorities. See Ezra 5:3f
- B. Remembrances of former glories: "How does it look to you now?" v. 3
- C. Recognition that expectations may not be met. See Ezekiel 40-48
- D. Realization that problems would not be solved overnight.
- E. Realities of hard work before them were setting in.

### II. The Empowering Effect of Encouragement. vv. 4-5

- A. An oracle of Jehovah: "Be strong." Repeated three times!
- B. Set to work. Prince, priest, prophet, and people, all of you!
- C. An oracle of Jehovah of hosts: "I am with you," with or without a Temple.
- D. "I covenanted with you" reminder of Exodus and Covenant. See Exodus 19:5-6
- E. "My Spirit remains among you." Genesis 41:38; Numbers 11:17; 1 Samuel 16:13; Zechariah 4:6
- F. "Do not fear" that I have deserted you, that your enemies will triumph, that the project will fail, that my purposes will be thwarted.

### III. The Positive Power of Promise.

Jehovah promises "in a little while." Isaiah 10:25; Jeremiah 51:33; John 16:16

- A. "I will once more shake...all nations." See Hebrews 12:25-29
  - 1. The great shaking at Sinai.
  - 2. The ultimate shaking at the Day of the Lord.
- B. "The desired of all nations will come."
  - 1. Messianic?
  - 2. Wealth of the nations?...Which are "mine."
- C. "I will fill this house with glory." Isaiah 60:1-3; Luke 2:32
- D. "The glory of this house will be greater than...the former."
- E. "I will grant peace." Zechariah 9:9-10; Ephesians 2:15-17

**Point to Ponder:** There is encouragement enough in knowing that God is at work.