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v92

Haggai

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Haggai

1 The prophet Haggai received a message from Yahweh in
the second year after Darius had become king of Persia.
Haggai received this message on the first day of the sixth
month of that year. He told it to the governor of Judah,
Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel. Haggai also told the message
to the high priest, Joshua the son of Jehozadak. He said,
2 "Yahweh, the commander of the heavenly armies, says this:
'The people *of Judah* are saying that it is not yet the right
time for them to rebuild my temple.'" 3 Yahweh then told the
prophet Haggai to tell the people this: 4 "It is not right for you
to live in comfortable houses while you have still not repaired
Yahweh's temple! 5 So this is what Yahweh, the commander
of the heavenly armies, is telling you: 'Think about what you
are doing!

6 You are planting many seeds, but you are not
harvesting many crops.
You eat food, but you never get enough to eat.
You drink wine, but you never get enough to satisfy you.
You still have clothes to wear, but they are so
worn-out that they no longer keep you warm.
You earn money, but it is not enough to pay your
expenses.' 7 So this is what Yahweh, the
commander of the heavenly armies, is telling
you: 'Think about what you should do
differently! 8 Go up into the hills and cut down
trees! Bring the timber from them here to
Jerusalem and rebuild my temple! This will
honor me, and I will be proud of my temple
again.' That is what Yahweh is telling you.
9 Yahweh, the commander of the heavenly
armies, is also telling you, 'There is a reason
why you have not grown many crops even
though you have planted many seeds. The
reason is that I kept the crops from growing. I
did that because you have built comfortable
homes for yourselves, but you have not
repaired my temple. 10 Because you were not
repairing my temple, I kept the crops from
growing by making it so dry that no rain fell
from the sky and there was not even any
moisture on the ground in the mornings. 11 I
have kept the plants from growing in the
fields and on the mountains. I have kept your
wheat and barley from growing. I have kept
your vines from producing grapes. I have kept
your olive trees from producing olives. Even
though you worked very hard, you were not
able to grow enough food. As a result, both
people and animals have not had enough to
eat.'" 12 *The governor of Judah,* Zerubbabel the
son of Shealtiel, knew that Yahweh their God
had told the prophet Haggai to speak this
message. The high priest, Joshua the son
of Jehozadak, also knew this. The rest of
the people who had returned to Judah from
exile in Babylon also knew this. And they
all respected Yahweh. So they all obeyed
the message that Yahweh their God had
spoken. 13 *Yahweh was pleased that the people
had obeyed him. So* Yahweh gave Haggai, his
messenger, another message to speak to the
people. Haggai said, "Yahweh is telling you, 'I
am with you!'" 14 This message from Yahweh
made the governor of Judah, Zerubbabel the
son of Shealtiel, want to rebuild the temple. It
also made the high priest, Joshua the son of
Jehozadak, want to rebuild the temple. It also
made the rest of the people want to rebuild
the temple. So they all gathered together and
started rebuilding the temple of Yahweh, the
commander of the heavenly armies, their God.
15 They started the work on the twenty-fourth
day of the sixth month of the second year
that Darius was king of Persia.

2 Yahweh gave another message to the prophet Haggai
on the twenty-first day of the seventh month *of Darius'
second year as king of Persia*. Yahweh told Haggai, 2 "I want
you to ask a question to the governor of Judah, Zerubbabel
the son of Shealtiel, and to the high priest, Joshua the son
of Jehozadak, and to the rest of the people. Ask them, 3 'Is
there still anyone among you who remembers how glorious
the temple used to look? If so, do you think that the temple
looks glorious now? You must agree that it does not look very
glorious at all.'" 4 *But after Haggai had asked those questions,
he said,* "Yahweh is telling you, Zerubbabel, 'Now do not be
discouraged!' Yahweh is also telling you high priest, Joshua
the son of Jehozadak, and all the Jewish people, 'Do not be
discouraged!' Yahweh, the commander of the heavenly armies,
is telling you, 'Repair the temple, because I am with you *to help
you*! 5 That is what I promised your ancestors when I brought
them out of slavery in Egypt and made a covenant with them.
And I am still keeping that promise now, since my Spirit is living
among you. So do not be afraid *of the people who are trying to
keep you from rebuilding my temple*!' 6 Do not be afraid, because
Yahweh, the commander of the heavenly armies, is telling
you, 'Soon it will be as if I am shaking the sky and the earth,
the sea and the land. 7 It will seem that way because I will
be making the other nations respect you. Then those people
will bring their treasures to this temple, and I will make it
very glorious again.' That is what Yahweh, the commander of
the heavenly armies, is telling you. 8 Yahweh, the commander
of the heavenly armies, says, 'The silver and gold that the
people of other nations have really belong to me.' 9 Yahweh,
the commander of the heavenly armies, says, 'The temple will
be even more glorious in the future than it was in the past.'
Yahweh, the commander of the heavenly armies, also says, 'I
will protect the temple from people who would want to destroy
it.'" 10 Yahweh spoke another message to the prophet Haggai
on the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month of Darius' second
year as king of Persia. Yahweh told Haggai, 11 "This is what I,

Yahweh, the commander of the heavenly armies, am telling
you to do. Ask the priests a question about what Moses directed
in his instructions. Say, 12 'Suppose a priest takes *from the altar*
some meat that a person has offered to Yahweh. And suppose
the priest carries the meat within his robe. If his robe touches
some bread or stew or wine or olive oil or any other food,
does that food become like food that someone has offered to
Yahweh?'" When Haggai asked the priests this question, they
replied, "No, it does not." 13 Then Haggai asked the priests this
question: "Suppose someone becomes unclean by touching a
dead body. If this unclean person then touches any food, does
that food also become unclean?" The priests replied, "Yes, that
food does become unclean." 14 Then Haggai said, "Yahweh is
telling you this: 'I consider you Jewish people to be unclean
as well! And since you are unclean, the crops that you grow
and the animals that you raise are also unclean. And so you
cannot offer those unclean crops or the unclean meat from
those animals on the altar at the temple. 15 So now think about
what has been happening to you during this whole time that
you have not been rebuilding my temple. 16 During that time,
when you thought you could take 20 measures of grain from a
heap, you found that there were only 10 measures in the heap.
When you thought you could draw 50 measures of wine out
of a wine vat, you found that there were only 20 measures in
the vat. 17 I caused blight, mildew, and hail to destroy all the
crops that you worked so hard to raise. Even so, you did not
do what I wanted you to do and rebuild my temple.' This is
what Yahweh is saying to you. 18 Think about what has been
happening to you during the whole time between when you
laid the foundation of my temple *when you first returned from*
exile until this day, the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month.
Yes, think about that! 19 You have no grain left in your barns.
Your grapevines have not been producing grapes. Your fig trees
have not been producing figs. Your pomegranate trees have
not been producing pomegranates. Your olive trees have not
been producing olives. But from now on, I will bless you *with*
an abundance of crops!" 20 Yahweh then gave a second message
to Haggai on that same day. He said, 21 "Tell Zerubbabel, the
governor of Judah, this for me: 'It is going to be as if I am
shaking the sky and the earth. 22 It will seem that way because I
am going to stop kingdoms from ruling over other kingdoms. I
am going to make strong nations weak. I am going to do this by
making the nations fight wars against each other. When they
do, they will completely destroy one another's armies.' 23 Tell
Zerubbabel for me, Yahweh, the commander of the heavenly
armies, 'After I destroy the armies of the other kingdoms, I
am going to make you powerful, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,
my servant.' Tell him for me, Yahweh, 'Just as a king seals his
orders with a signet ring, so I will use you to accomplish my
purposes.' Tell him for me, Yahweh, the commander of the
heavenly armies, 'I am going to do this because I have chosen
you!'"