

Haggai

In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerub'babel the son of She-al'ti-el, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehoz'adak, the high priest, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: This people

5 say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider how you have fared. You have sown much, and harvested little; you eat, but you never have

10 enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages earns wages to put them into a bag with holes. "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider how you have fared. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may appear in my glory, says the LORD. You

15 have looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? says the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while you busy yourselves each with his own house. Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. And I have called for a drought upon the land and the

20 hills, upon the grain, the new wine, the oil, upon what the ground brings

forth, upon men and cattle, and upon all their labors." Then Zerub'babel the son of She-al'ti-el, and Joshua the son of Jehoz'adak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and the people feared before the LORD. Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD's message, "I am with you, says the LORD." And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerub'babel the son of She-al'ti-el, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehoz'adak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month. In the second year of Darius the king, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, "Speak now to Zerub'babel the son of She-al'ti-el, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehoz'adak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, 'Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerub'babel, says the LORD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehoz'adak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, according to the promise that I

made you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit abides among you; fear not. For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I

5 will fill this house with splendor, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts." On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the

10 LORD came by Haggai the prophet, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: Ask the priests to decide this question, 'If one carries holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and touches with his skirt bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any kind of food, does it become holy?'" The priests answered, "No." Then said Haggai, "If one who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of

15 these, does it become unclean?" The priests answered, "It does become unclean." Then Haggai said, "So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, says the LORD; and so with every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean. Pray now, consider what will come to pass from this day onward. Before a stone was placed upon a stone in the temple of

20 the LORD, how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty

measures, there were but ten; when one came to the winevat to draw fifty
measures, there were but twenty. I smote you and all the products of your
toil with blight and mildew and hail; yet you did not return to me, says the
LORD. Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the
5 ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was
laid, consider: Is the seed yet in the barn? Do the vine, the fig tree, the
pomegranate, and the olive tree still yield nothing? From this day on I will
bless you." The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the
twenty-fourth day of the month, "Speak to Zerub'babel, governor of Judah,
10 saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, and to overthrow the
throne of kingdoms; I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of
the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders; and the horses and
their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his fellow. On that
day, says the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O Zerub'babel my servant, the
15 son of She-al'ti-el, says the LORD, and make you like a signet ring; for I
have chosen you, says the LORD of hosts." *

* The Bible text in this publication is from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyrighted in 1973 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of the USA and is used by permission.