

2. Recipients of the Message (Hag. 2:2,3)

a. Their identity

(1) Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel (Hag. 2:20)

He was the governor of Judah - the political leader of the nation of Israel.

(2) Joshua, the son of Jehozadak (Hag. 2:b)

He was the high priest - the spiritual leader of the nation of Israel.

(3) The residue of the people (Hag. 2c)

They were all the rest of the Jews who returned from captivity in Babylon to the province of Jerusalem - Judah in 536 B.C.

b. Their state

They were discouraged because they regarded the work they were doing for the Lord, namely, the rebuilding of the temple as non-existent in comparison with work that had been previously done for the Lord, namely, the building of Solomon's temple (Hag. 2:3)

Note: There were still some alive among the people of Israel who had seen Solomon's temple before it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar at about 587/588 B.C. They were priests, Levites, and heads of families. There were more of them alive fifteen years earlier when the foundation of the temple was completed in 535 B.C. (Ezra 3:12), but during the intervening years, they died off.

3. Source of the Message

The message that Haggai delivered to Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the rest of the Jews in the province of Jerusalem - Judah came from the Lord (Hag. 2:1, 4, 6, 7-9).

4. Content of the Message (Hag. 2:2-9)

a. The Lord pointed out the way His people regarded the work they were doing for Him, namely, the rebuilding of the temple (Hag. 2:3).

They regarded the work they were doing for the Lord, namely, the rebuilding of the temple (Hag. 2:3), as non-existent in comparison with work that had been previously done for the Lord, namely, the building of Solomon's temple and this was the cause of their discouragement.

Note: When the Lord stated the cause of His people's discouragement, he stated it as it really was. He didn't say they had overly idealized Solomon's temple or that they were putting themselves down by saying that the temple they were building was as non-existent in comparison with Solomon's temple. Instead, He dealt with the cause of His people's discouragement with realism.