

- b. The Lord commanded His people to be inwardly strong and to continue to do the work He wanted them to do, namely, to rebuild the temple (Hag. 2:4-9).

(1) Statement of the command (Hag. 2:4a,b,c,)

The Lord commanded the leaders of His people, Zerubbabel and Joshua, and the rest of His people in the province of Jerusalem - Judah to be inwardly strong and to continue to do the work He wanted them to do, namely, to rebuild the temple.

(2) Reason for obedience to the command (Hag. 2:4d-9)

The Lord will be present with His people to help them to continue to do the work He wants them to do, namely, to rebuild the temple.

(a) Confirmation of the Lord's presence with His people (Hag. 2:5a,b)

When the Lord brought the people of Israel out of Egypt, He promised them that if they obeyed Him, He would make them His people out of all the nations of the earth (Ex. 19:5,b). In fulfillment of this promise, His Spirit has been with them in the past and is with them at the present time.

(b) Result of the Lord's presence with His people (Hag. 2:5c-9)

The Lord's <sup>peo</sup>ple are not to fear to do the work the Lord wants them to do, namely, to rebuild the temple.

Reason why the Lord's people are not to fear

The Lord's people are not to fear to do the work the Lord wants them to do, namely, to rebuild the temple because of the promise the Lord made concerning the future. The Lord promised that in the future the temple would be more glorious than Solomon's temple and that in Jerusalem where the temple is located, there would be peace. Because the Lord is omnipotent and can and will fulfill this promise, one day the temple will be more glorious than Solomon's temple and in the place where the temple is located there will be peace. Therefore, because of this promise, His people are not to fear to rebuild the temple, even though in its existent state, it doesn't correspond to their human expectations.

Note: Just as the Lord shook the earth when He gave the Law on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:16-20, particularly vs. 18), so in "a little while," i.e., in the future the Lord "will shake," i.e. cause physical convulsions in "the heavens," "the earth," "the sea," and "the dry land," and the Lord "will shake," i.e. overthrow "all nations,"