

## HAGGAI OUTLINE

Note the clear dating of the 4 main messages

<b>1</b>	<b>Take stock and take action</b>	1:1-15	Day 1 Month 6	29 Aug
<b>2</b>	<b>Take Courage</b>	2:1-9	Day 21 Month 7	17 Oct
<b>3</b>	<b>Questions and Answers</b>	2:10-19	Day 24 Month 9	18 Dec
<b>4</b>	<b>Personal Word</b>	2:20-23	Day 24 Month 9	18 Dec

*Lord, grant that we aright may learn  
The wisdom it imparts,  
And to its heavenly teaching turn,  
With simple, childlike hearts.*

*Lamp of our feet - John Bacchus Dykes*

# 1

## HAGGAI SESSION 1

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### Read Haggai I: 1-11

#### Haggai brings God's challenge to Zerubbabel and Joshua on 29th August 520 BC

A clear, unequivocal call to take stock and to take action

1. What reason did the people give for neglecting the temple and how is it answered by Haggai?
2. Do Christians today ever use the same excuse and how acceptable is it?
3. How successful has the people's lifestyle been? What is the prophet's explanation?
4. What positive steps does Haggai put to them and what are their options?
5. Discuss how you would apply this passage to our situation?

#### King Darius

This king is not to be confused with other rulers of the same name, such as Darius the Mede of Daniel 9.

The one here is Darius I, son of Hytaspes, ruler of the Persian Empire from 521 to 486 BC. Read Ezra 4: 5, then Chapters 5 and 6, where Darius confirms and endorses the decree of Cyrus to silence the opposition being mounted against the rebuilding of the temple. The Persian ruler was sometimes called the "Great King." The Persians took a different approach to managing their empire from that taken by the Assyrians and Babylonians before them. They thought it much more sensible to allow subject peoples to remain in their own lands and keep their own traditions, including religious ones. They appointed governors, known as 'satraps', to administer the provinces.

## Read Haggai 1: 12-15

### The response to the plain word of the Lord

### The remarkable reaction of the people and God's encouraging message

1. Why does the writer specify leaders and people like this?
2. What are the details in their response to the word?
3. What do you make of the quick reply from the Lord?
4. Discuss the details of participants, action and date in the verses 14 and 15.
5. Consider the main lessons this particular passage holds for us today?

### *Think it Over*

*When I hear the word of God, how do I respond to it? I recall the text, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."*