

Ezra 5 - Pt 2 - God's Message Through Haggai and Zechariah

Remember the thoughts from Ch 4:24 the work came to a standstill -- for 16 years

Then Two Men Prophesied & The People Set To Work To Rebuild

Ezr 5:1-17 NIV Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, **prophesied** to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem ***in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.*** (2) Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak **set to work to rebuild** the house of God in Jerusalem. And **the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.**

WHAT DID THEY SAY THAT BROUGHT SUCH A CHANGE?

He Challenged Their Priorities

Hag 1:1-15 ESV 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 the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: 2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: **These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.**" 3 Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, 4 **"Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"**

- Ignoring the Work of the Kingdom "letting His house lie in ruin" **became the norm**
- "The time has not come to rebuild the house"
 - Initially they stopped because of opposition
 - Now they are **justifying priorities that are NOT focused on God's purpose**
 - He wanted to repurpose their lives...to fall back to HIS INTENDED PURPOSE

He Told Them to Consider Their Ways *[both in reaping and future sowing]*

5 Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: ***Consider your ways.*** 6 You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. 7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: ***Consider your ways.*** 8 Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, ***that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified,*** says the LORD. 9 You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. ***Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.*** 10 Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. 11 And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."

Do We Ever Consider Our Ways...?

- **What have your ways produced?** ---what I am reaping
 - 5 ***Consider your ways.*** [i.e. how your actions have played a role in your current condition] 6 You have sown much.....
 - He brought circumstances into their lives to help get their attention...
- **He gives them direction to recover from these circumstances** --- what I need to be sowing
 - 7 ***Consider your ways.*** [i.e. what should you do going forward] 8 Go up to the hills.....

Psa 119:59 NIV **I have considered my ways** and have turned my steps to your statutes.

What Do We Busy Ourselves With? They didn't stop living - it is just that the focus of their lives was radically removed from God's intended purpose for them...

What about doing things that BRING GLORY TO HIM

Joh 17:4 ESV I glorified you on earth, having **accomplished the work that you gave me to do.**

He Reminded Them "I Am With You"

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, 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 the LORD.*** 13 Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD's message, "***I am with you, declares the LORD.***" 14 And the ***LORD stirred up the spirit*** of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, 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, 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

I Am With You - There is No Greater Source of Confidence

Hag 2:2-5 ESV "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, 3 'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? 4 Yet now ***be strong, O Zerubbabel,*** declares the LORD. ***Be strong, O Joshua,*** son of Jehozadak, the high priest. ***Be strong, all you people*** of the land, declares the LORD. ***Work, for I am with you,*** declares the LORD of hosts, 5 according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. ***My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.***

- **How many years since coming out of Egypt - roughly 850 years or so**

I will never leave you or forsake you

Joh 14:15-17 NIV "If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate **to help you and be with you forever**-- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Mat 28:20 NIV ..."And surely **I am with you always**, to the very end of the age."

Jos 1:5-6 NIV No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; **I will never leave you nor forsake you**. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

He Helped Joshua overcome ACCUSATION

Zec 3:1-5 ESV Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, **and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him**. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" 3 Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. 4 And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "**Remove the filthy garments from him**." And to him he said, "**Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments**." 5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by.

He Reminded Zerubbabel that it is Not by might nor power but by my spirit

Zec 4:6 ESV Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

He Gave Zerubbabel Extreme Encouragement

Level mountains, he laid foundation, he will complete it, despise not the day of small things

Zec 4:7-10 ESV Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'" 8 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 9 "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. 10 For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth."