

## **Joshua Anderson – Grasping Gods Word Assignment 6.2**

### The Historical Setting of The Book of Haggai

#### Author

The Author this book is attributed to the prophet Haggai, who delivered a message from God. He was a contemporary of and worked alongside the prophet Zechariah as mentioned in the book of Ezra. There is no indication of his lineage or occupation. Haggai seems to suggest that he saw the glory of Solomon's temple some 66 years prior before its destruction, making him at least 70 years old when the the word of the Lord came to him - that make up this book.

#### Date

Haggai writes from start to end of the book to be in the 4-month span in the second year of the Persian king Darius Hystaspes reign, as verifiable by secular history to have reigned 521-486 BC. This places the words of this book to be given and recorded in 520 BC.

#### Audience

Haggai audience to his message was the remnant of Jewish people, as well to leadership of Zerubbabel the governor & Joshua the height priest – set over Jerusalem from God's people.

The people had been granted to return from captivity to rebuild the temple some 18 years before in 538 BC at the decree of Cyrus the Great.

## Situation

The work they were granted to undertake in rebuilding the temple many years before had stalled and eventually ordered to stop from the King of Persia, caused by opposition of neighbouring peoples and indifference amongst the Jewish people spoke of in the book of Ezra.

## Purpose

Haggai was given a message for the people to renew their zeal to rebuild the temple and so reorder their spiritual priorities, instead of trying to build their own wealth and fail as they had been since giving up on the temple.

The Lord also used this to encourage the people that if they draw near, He would be with them in their midst, and share of His desire for all to be a part of a spiritual glory of God's temple, His house, that would transcend its previous physical glory, in a New Jerusalem, without any earthly foreign rulers or peoples, and for a period without end!

## Resources:

- ESV Global Study Bible, Publisher Crossway, 2012.
- "Grace to you" Article: Bible Introductions – Haggai, John MacArthur, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 2010