

Haggai the Prophet

His name, from Hebrew, "Hag" - Feast. Festival. Festive One

He is a post exilic Prophet. We have

Pre-exilic Prophets- Prophesied before the exile to Babylon in the year 597 B.C.

Exilic Prophets- Prophesied during to exile to Babylon.

Postexilic Prophets. Prophesied after the exile and the return to the land

Ironside tells us it is good to read together: Ezra, Nehemiah Esther (historical books) and Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi (post exilic prophets)

Haggai prophesies to the people who here returned to the land from exile to Babylon. He preached in Jerusalem for about four months, in the year 520 B.C. By that time some of The Jews had been back in the land, in Jerusalem several years.

Cyrus king of Persia conquered Babylon in 538 PC. He issued a degree that all of Babylon's captives could return to their homes and rebuild. Some did. Some did not. Ezra 1-6 tells us about the first group to return. When they did return in 536AC, they found only ruins, poverty and opposition, from to Samaritans and the locals. So nothing was done to rebuild from 536-520 B.C.(Smith, 147f).

Now God raises Haggai to awaken the people and encourage them to do what they came to do. To rebuild and restore the city wall, the City and 76 Temple (The House of God). To awaken them from their discouragement, disappointment, fear, lethargy, apathy and indifference; to challenge them to act and do; to go against the human opposition, the decree of another King. Artaxerxes and their own inward struggles. So God speaks to them through Haggai to get on with the work of rebuilding. This is the Debar Word of YHWH to Zerubbabel (Begotten in Babylon, Seed of Babylon) the governor and to Joshua The High Priest. It is the second year of the reign of King Darius (of Persia) (August 29, 520 B.C.).

As you read Haggai see what God said to them then,
Has said to His People throughout time,
What He is saying to His People today. Now. Here. To us. To each one of us. Now!

Supplement for The Time Alone with God as we read, study and listen to God speaking to us through Haggai His Prophet