

MANUSCRIPT STUDY HANDOUT HAGGAI: BUILDING FOR HIS GLORY (LESSON 1)
LESSON 1: THE FOUNDATION AND THE SILENT YEARS PASSAGE:
HAGGAI 1:1

[MARKUP KEY]

Yellow Highlighter : Date Stamps & Historical Markers
Blue Pen : Names, Leaders, & Royal Lineage
Red Pen : Notes on the 16-Year Delay & Margin Timeline

MARGINS / TIMELINE	SCRIPTURE TEXT
	[1] 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:

[HISTORICAL TIMELINE REFERENCE]

- * 538 B.C. —> Decree of Cyrus; ~50,000 exiles return to Jerusalem.
- * 536 B.C. —> Temple foundation laid with great shouting (Ezra 3:10–11).
- * 534 B.C. —> Work halts due to opposition, hardship, and loss of focus.
- * 520 B.C. —> Haggai prophesies (August 29). The 16-year delay ends.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT: * Haggai is a post-exilic prophet. What kind of Jerusalem did the returning exiles walk into after 70 years in Babylon?

2. THE REMNANT: * Why is it significant that only 50,000 out of hundreds of thousands returned? Were these "bad, lazy people" or dedicated believers?

3. GOD'S CALENDAR: * Why is the date reckoned by a pagan monarch (Darius) instead of an Israeli king? What does this teach us about how God keeps track of our delays?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

"Starting strong for God is easy; staying faithful when initial excitement fades is where true faith is tested." * Where in your life did you begin a work, habit, or commitment for God with great excitement, but allowed resistance or exhaustion to halt your progress?