

- ❖ **Setting:** **536** – 1st return under King Cyrus (Ez2), **534** – Temple foundation laid (Ez3:8), Others in land begin opposing the Temple work (Ez4, Hg1:2), **520** – Temple construction resumes under King Darius (Ez4:24), **516** – Temple completed (Ez6:15)
 - Haggai fits within **Ez5-6** ... Zerubbabel – David's heir, grandson of Jehoiachin ... Joshua – father was high priest at exile ... Both men show the covenant faithfulness of God ... He will never fail His word ... Lord of Armies – Sovereign King over all
- ❖ **Remnant People:** about 50,000 ... Small number compared to those who chose to stay behind in Babylon
 - Remnant starts off well: commit themselves to the Lord, rebuilding Temple and Jerusalem ... Opposition and hardship begin to unsettle the people– **Ez4:4-5** ... Fear, exhaustion, apathy, and busyness soon realign the priorities of people – **Hg1:2-4** ... Clash between 'what I want' and 'what God wants' ... Same tension exists today ... **Whose kingdom do we prioritize first**
 - Modern-day Christians who attend church occasionally, believe the Bible, raising a good family ... How's your relationship with God ... When it comes to the things of God – seeking His will, depending on Him, taking seriously His commission, how would you rate how you're doing
 - The people are allowing the things of life to prioritize their life – **1:5-6** ... God allows situations to occur to expose what they're missing, how they've gotten off course, why depending on Him is imperative – **1:9-11** ... There's a reason why He addresses them as **the Lord of Armies** ... He alone is their **protector and provider** ... **In life, He is always first** ... They forget this
- ❖ **Rebuild My House:** what's the reason for rebuilding Temple ... God's pleasure and glory – **1:8** ... Pleasure in sacrifices that bring reconciliation with His people ... Glory in being visibly present among His people
 - **In them rebuilding His house, the Lord is rebuilding them** ... Rebuilding the relationship, the trust, faith, dependence ... He's calling them to begin again His Kingdom work ... To seek His will over their own ... To live as His people ... **Mt6:31-33**
- ❖ **Response of the people:** how do the people respond – **1:12** ... They obey Him because they revere Him ... The word of the Lord changes the hearts of the people ... This heart change causes them to once again live as His people
 - Again, this is more about how the Lord rebuilds His people ... How the Lord means to dwell among His people – externally and internally ... **Book of Haggai points us forward to the Person and Work of Jesus Christ**
 - It's those who are in Christ who are built together for God's dwelling ... It's those who are in Christ whose body is a temple of the Holy Spirit ... It's those who are in Christ who are God's temple ... For those in Christ, God dwells within and among
 - This is how God builds His House (Ep2:19-22, 1P2:4-10) ... He invites us to participate in building His house by making disciples ... This means we are to be about the things of God ... This means that His Kingdom work is to have priority in our life / family