

HAGGAI

Zerubbabel restorer of the temple

1¹IN THE SECOND YEAR OF KING DARIUS, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest: ²These are the words of the LORD of Hosts: This nation says to itself that it is not yet time for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt. ³Then this word came through Haggai the prophet: ⁴Is it a time for you to live in your own well-roofed houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵Now these are the words of the LORD of Hosts: Consider your way of life. ⁶You have sown much but reaped little; you eat but never as much as you wish, you drink but never more than you need, you are clothed but never warm, and the labourer puts his wages into a purse with a hole in it. ⁷These are the words of the LORD of Hosts: Consider your way of life. ⁸Go up into the hills, fetch timber, and build a house acceptable to me, where I can show my glory [show my glory: or be honoured], says the LORD. ⁹You look for much and get little. At the moment when you would bring home the harvest, I blast it. Why? says the LORD of Hosts. Because my house lies in ruins, while each of you has a house that he can run to. ¹⁰It is your fault that the heavens withhold their dew and the earth its produce. ¹¹So I have proclaimed a drought against land and mountain, against corn, new wine, and oil, and all that the ground yields, against man and cattle and all the products of man's labour.

¹²Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the rest of the people listened to what the LORD their God had said and what the prophet Haggai said when the LORD their God sent him, and they were filled with fear because of the LORD. ¹³So Haggai the LORD's messenger, as the LORD had commissioned him, said to the people: I am with you, says the LORD. ¹⁴Then the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and of the rest of the people; they came and began work on the house of the LORD of Hosts their God ¹⁵on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

2¹In the second year of King Darius, on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, these words came from the LORD through the prophet Haggai: ²Say to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the rest of the people: ³Is there anyone still among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it appear to you now? Does it not seem to you as if it were not there? ⁴But now, Zerubbabel, take heart, says the LORD; take heart, Joshua son of Jehozadak, high priest. Take heart, all you people, says the LORD. Begin the work, for I am with you, says the LORD of Hosts, ⁵and my spirit is present among you. Have no fear. ⁶For these are the words of the LORD of Hosts: One thing more: I will shake heaven and earth, sea and land, ⁷I will shake all nations; the treasure of all nations shall come hither, and I will fill this house with glory [Or wealth], so says the LORD of Hosts. ⁸Mine is the silver and mine the gold, says the LORD of Hosts, ⁹and the glory [Or wealth] of this latter house shall surpass the glory [Or wealth] of the former, says the LORD of

Hosts. In this place will I grant prosperity and peace. This is the very word of the LORD of Hosts.

¹⁰In the second year of Darius, on the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, this word came from the LORD to the prophet Haggai: ¹¹These are the words of the LORD of Hosts: Ask the priests to give their ruling: ¹²If a man is carrying consecrated flesh in a fold of his robe, and he lets the fold touch bread or broth or wine or oil or any other kind of food, will that also become consecrated? And the priests answered, 'No.' ¹³Haggai went on, But if a person defiled by contact with a corpse touches any one of these things, will that also become defiled? 'It will', answered the priests. ¹⁴Haggai replied, So it is with this people and nation and all that they do, says the LORD; whatever offering they make here is defiled in my sight. ¹⁵And now look back over recent times down to this day: before one stone was laid on another in the LORD's temple, ¹⁶what was your plight? If a man came to a heap of corn expecting twenty measures, he found but ten; if he came to a wine-vat to draw fifty measures, he found but twenty. ¹⁷I blasted you and all your harvest with black blight and red and with hail, and yet you had no mind to return to me, says the LORD. ¹⁸Consider, from this day onwards, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, the day when the foundations of the temple of the LORD are laid, consider: ¹⁹will the seed still be diminished [*diminished: prob. rdg, Heb omitted*] in the barn? Will the vine and the fig, the pomegranate and the olive, still bear no fruit? Not so, from this day I will bless you.

²⁰On that day, the twenty-fourth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to Haggai a second time: ²¹Tell Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, I will shake heaven and earth; ²²I will overthrow the thrones of kings, break the power of heathen realms, overturn chariots and their riders; horses and riders shall fall by the sword of their comrades. ²³On that day, says the LORD of Hosts, I will take you, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, my servant, and will wear you as a signet-ring; for you it is that I have chosen. This is the very word of the LORD of Hosts.