

#10 Minor Prophets: Past, Present and Future

Haggai: Prophet of Encouragement

Key Verse 2:4 *Even so, be strong Zerubbabel – this is the Lord's declaration. Be strong Joshua son of Jehozadak, high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land – this is the Lord's declaration. Work! – for I am with you says the Lord of hosts.*

The judgment on Israel through the Assyrians and on Judah through the Babylonians has come to an end for many of the Jews who were in exile. Under the Persian rule of King Darius the foundation of the temple was laid in 536 BC, as recorded in Ezra 3:8-13. It was not the same as Solomon's temple and the old one's wept for an old day and the young one's rejoiced for the new day (2:3). The zeal wore off quickly due to opposition and the foundation lay untouched for sixteen years.

This message to get to work is addressed to Zerubbabel, the governor, and Joshua, the High Priest – and to all the people of the land. It will take leadership and faithful people to COMPLETE THE WORK! Finish what you have started to the glory of God.

➤ It's Time to Build! God is Present! 1:2-15

It is time to move from assent or agreement in principle to action in practice. No more excuses or procrastination.

God knows the right time! He told Noah it was time to build an Ark; Abraham, it was time to go to a promised land; Moses, it was time to set His people free; Joshua, it was time to take Jericho; Gideon, to fight the Midianites with 300 men; Solomon, it was time to build the first temple; Prophets to speak; Paul, it was time to go to Macedonia; and one day the Father will tell the Son, it is time to return for the church, to bring them home. Mt. 24:36 "No one knows that day and hour."

Time and God knowing what time it is in history is a prevalent theme in the Bible. We should be seeking to know and understand our times like:

"Sons of Issachar ... who understood their times." 1 Chr. 12:32.

"in a position for such a time as this" Esther 4:4

"When the fullness of time had come God sent His Son..." Gal. 4:4.

"The time has come for the Son of God to be glorified." John 12:12

"Pay careful attention, then, to how you live – not as unwise people, but as wise – making the most of the time because the days are evil." Eph. 5:15-16

What is God calling to your attention in this time?

Is it time to Build?

:2 You say it is not time to build.

:3 The Lord says...

:4-6 You think it is time to live only for yourselves. Consider the results of your ways.

:7-11 Think it through carefully. (Mal. 2:1-2)

:12-15 It took twenty three days through the prophesying of Haggai for the Lord to rouse the governor, high priest and people to begin to build the temple.

➤ **Keep On! God will Provide! 2:1-9**

One month later a message of encouragement.

:1-5 Remember what I did before. God will again.

:6-9 God's provision of materials and peace for the building. (Mal. 3:10; Lk. 6:38)

➤ **Stay Holy! It Matters! 2:10-19**

Three months later a call for correction.

You are not made holy by building the temple, as you are not made holy by listening to Christian music, but when you attempt to please God outside of a heart of faith (Heb. 11:6), it does not produce good results. There are many Christians who live unholy lives and think that by going to church or reading their Bible they are made holy. "Sacraments" make no one forgiven. But, when we bring our unholy ideas and works into a church, look what does and doesn't happen. A right heart matters!

➤ **Blessings are Coming 2:20-23**

A second message on the same day..

:19 A new time of blessing is coming.

:20-23 The governor, Zerubbabel, of royal blood of the line of David was their sign of days to come when the nation who were as a prodigal son will be once again have one with a signet ring (Luke 15:22) and be victorious over their enemies. (Zech. 9:9-10).

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Be faithful in the use of the time we have, and trust God for the blessing!

Will we listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through faithful teachers, pastors or prophets?

LISTEN! DO NOT DELAY! ACT SWIFTLY! ENDURE! BE BLESSED!

If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in His love. John 15:10

Just as we have been entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather God, who examines our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4

We may not always know what time it is in the plans of the Lord, but we are called to persevere in faithfulness and encourage each other to do the same.

About the times and the seasons: Brothers and Sisters, you do not need anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. Encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 ,11