

Prophecies about Rebuilding

CHARACTERS: Haggai, Zechariah, Voice of God, Zerubbabel, Ezra. All

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Ezra 5, Haggai 1, Zechariah 1, 4, 6

FK reading level: 3.2

HAGGAI: You have planted much but harvested little.

ALL: We eat but never have enough to be satisfied.

HAGGAI: You put on clothes but never have enough to get warm.

ALL: The wage earner puts his wages into a bag with a hole in it.

HAGGAI: The LORD of Hosts says this:

VOICE OF GOD: (*with authority*) Think carefully about your ways. Go up into the hills, bring down lumber, and build my house. Then I will be pleased with it and be glorified.

HAGGAI: You people expected much, but then it amounted to little.

ALL: Yes. Tell us why this has happened.

VOICE OF GOD: Because My house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house.

ZERUBBABEL: You have heard what the prophet Haggai has spoken.

ALL: We must rebuild God's house in Jerusalem.

EZRA: The prophets of God were with us, helping us.

ZECHARIAH: This is what the LORD of Hosts says

VOICE OF GOD: Return to Me and I will return to you! Build the temple.

ZECHARIAH: Not by strength or by might will you do this.

VOICE OF GOD: but by My Spirit.

ZECHARIAH: This task might seem as hard as climbing a great mountain. But before Zerubbabel it will become a plain.

ALL: And he will bring out the capstone

ZECHARIAH: The Messiah

ALL: accompanied by shouts of (*shouting*) Grace, grace to it!

ZECHARIAH: This is what the Lord of Hosts says

ALL: Here is a man whose name is Branch;

ZECHARIAH: He will branch out from His place and build the Lord's temple.

ALL: He will be clothed in splendor and will sit on His throne and rule.

ZECHARIAH: Zerubbabel's hands have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it.

ALL: By this we will know that the Lord of Hosts has sent Zechariah to us.

ZECHARIAH: Restore the pure worship of God

ZERUBBABEL: Zechariah, you encourage our faith and hope in the expectation of the Messiah

More Opposition

CHARACTERS: TATTENAI, Shethar-bozenai, ZERUBBABEL:, Ezra, Cyrus, All

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Ezra 5, Haggai 1, Zechariah 1, 4, 6

FK reading level: 7.1

TATTENAI: I, Tattenai, governor of the region west of the Euphrates River, demand to know who gave you the order to rebuild this temple and finish this structure?

SHETHAR-BOZENAI: What are the names of the workers who are constructing this building?

ALL: But God was watching over the Jewish elders.

ZERUBBABEL: We will not stop. Send a report to King Darius.

EZRA: He will give you written instructions about this matter.

TATTENAI: I'll do that. *(to SHETHAR-BOZENAI)* Write this down to King Darius: *(SHETHAR-BOZENAI writes down TATTENAI's words)* Let it be known to the king that we went to the house of the great God in the province of Judah.

SHETHAR-BOZENAI: *(writing)* It is being built diligently and succeeding through the people's efforts.

TATTENAI: So we questioned the elders and asked, "Who gave you the order to rebuild this temple and finish this structure?"

SHETHAR-BOZENAI: We also asked them for their names for your information.

TATTENAI: ZERUBBABEL: and the Jews said

ZERUBBABEL: We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth and are rebuilding the temple.

EZRA: It was because our fathers angered the God of heaven, that He handed us over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

ZERUBBABEL: The one who destroyed this temple and deported our people to Babylon.

EZRA: However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon

CYRUS: *(with authority)* I, Cyrus, issue a decree to rebuild the house of God.

ZERUBBABEL: He gave us the gold and silver articles of God's house that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem.

CYRUS: Take these articles, put them in the temple in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its original site.

ZERUBBABEL: We have laid the foundation of God's house in Jerusalem.

EZRA: It has been under construction from that time until now, yet it has not been completed.

ZERUBBABEL: So if it pleases the king, let a search of the royal archives in Babylon be conducted to see if it is true that a decree was issued by King Cyrus

ALL: to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem.

EZRA: Let the king's decision regarding this matter be sent to us.

Darius's Search

CHARACTERS: Zerubbabel, Ezra, Darius, All

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Ezra 6

FK reading level: 7.3

EZRA: King Darius gave the order, and they found King Cyrus' decree concerning the house of God in Jerusalem.

DARIUS: *(with authority)* Stay away from that place, Tattenai, Shethar-bozenai, and all the officials in the region.

ALL: Leave the construction of the house of God alone.

DARIUS: Let the governor and elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its original site.

ZERUBBABEL: Not only that, Darius commands that the cost is to be paid in full out of the royal revenues from the taxes of the region west of the Euphrates River, so that the work will not stop.

EZRA: Whatever is needed—give it to them every day without fail

ALL: So we can offer sacrifices to the God of heaven

EZRA: and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

DARIUS: I also issue a decree concerning any man who interferes with this directive: execute him

ALL: and May the God who caused His name to dwell here

DARIUS: overthrow any king or people who dares to harm

ALL: or interfere with this house of God in Jerusalem.

DARIUS: I, Darius, have issued the decree. Let it be carried out diligently.

ZERUBBABEL: Then and his colleagues diligently carried out what King Darius had decreed.

EZRA: We continued successfully with the building under the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah.

ALL: We finished the building according to the command of the God.

EZRA: The Lord's house was completed on the third day of the month of Adar in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

ZERUBBABEL: *(Joyfully)* Let us celebrate the dedication of the house of God with joy.

EZRA: We observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with joy

ALL: because the Lord had made us joyful

ZERUBBABEL: The Lord changed the king's attitude toward us

ALL: so that he supported us in the work on the house of God.