

# "Enduring To The End"

**Study:** Daniel 12:1-13 **Reading:** Revelation 11:1-14, 20:11-15 **Memory:** Psalm 119:14

## What Does the Bible Say?

Verse 36 of chapter 11 transitioned between events that had taken place to events that will take place. Further proof of this transition is given in verse 12 as we are told how there will be a time of trouble like the world has never seen before. During this time, the great angel Michael will go to battle to fight for the people of Israel. Michael was the angel in charge of protecting the Israelite nation. The time of trouble referred to here is the final tribulation period when the Anti-christ will meet his end. Not all Jews will be delivered at this time, but only those whose name are "written in the book." This appears to be the first reference in Scripture of the "book of life" in which is written the name of all those who are true believers (vs 1).

During the time of the end, the bodies of those who had died will be raised up to be united with their souls. Those who had believed will experience eternal bliss with God, while those who had rejected God will be sent to eternal damnation. Those who had believed and didn't see the promise fulfilled on this life, will be rewarded for their belief. They will shine like the stars in the universe and experience great glory even though they may have had to suffer on this earth (vs 2-3).

Daniel was told to write down these words, but it was made clear that the words would not be fully understood until the events happened. Just as we can look back and see how the prophecies were fulfilled through the Greek kingdom, one day, those alive in the end times will be able to understand what is taking place as they see the events unfolding before their eyes (vs 4).

Two other men appeared to Daniel and were standing on the bank of the river. Daniel heard a voice ask one of these men how long these things that Daniel saw in his vision would last. This man declared that it would last for "time, times and half a time." Though the tribulation will last for seven years, the first three and a half years will be relatively peaceful for the Jews with their sacrificial system being re-establighed, but the last three years will be a terrible time. Though Daniel heard this, he didn't understand the full meaning of what was being said and how things were going to turn out. Daniel was not given a greater explanation, but was told to write the things down and they would be understood better when the events came (vs 5-9).

During the time of the end, many will choose to believe, but many will also choose to continue in their wickedness and increase their evil deeds. Those who are wise will understand that what is happening has been recorded in the Scripture. From the time that the daily offerings are taken away in the middle of the tribulation until the time of the end, there will be 1,290 days. Revelation 11:2 reveals it will be 42 months and Revelation 11:3 says it will be 1,260 days. There has been a variety of answers given for this discrepancy, but we can't be exactly sure why there is a difference (vs 10-11).

Those who endure the 1,335 days until the end will be blessed. There is some debate about the additional 45 days given here, but it appears this time is used for the setting up of the millennial kingdom. Those who make it through the Great Tribulation will experience the tremendous blessings of the kingdom of God. At that time, they will find great rest and the believing Jews who make it through will be given their allotted portion of land (vs 12-13).

#### How Does this Apply to Me?

Just as the prophecies about the Greek kingdom couldn't be clearly understood until after the events actually unfolded, the full events of the end times won't be clearly understood until they happen. Daniel was told to simply write down the things that he saw, but wasn't told to try to understand them. I believe this is an important approach when it comes to our study of eschatology, the study of end times. It is easy to become engrossed in this study and to try to decipher the exact meaning of everything given. Over the centuries thousands of people have associated the predictions of the end times with current events that were happening, only to find that those events weren't the ones recorded in Scripture. People can spend countless hours guessing about the end, but I don't believe that is why these prophecies are given. I believe they are given for two main reasons. One, that those going through those times can clearly understand what is happening is part of God's plan which will give them strength to endure. Two, they are given so that we can have full confidence and trust in God's plan for us and our future.

What is Michael responsible for (vs 1)?

How is the time of the end described (vs 1)?

How can the Jews find hope in what is written (vs 1)?

Do you think this only applies to Jews or are all believers included (vs 1)?

What will happen to those who have died (vs 2)?

What will the wise men during this time be like (vs 3)?

What will they have the ability to do (vs 3)?

What was Daniel told to do (vs 4)? What do you think this meant?

What will happen in the time of the end (vs 4)?

What did Daniel see (vs 5)?

What question was asked (vs 6)? Why do you think this was asked?

How long would it last (vs 7)?

Why do you think Daniel didn't understand (vs 8)?

What did he tell Daniel (vs 9)?

How can you find comfort in not being able to fully understand?

What will be the two main responses at the end of the tribulation (vs 10)?

How long will the end be after the sacrifices are stopped (vs 11)?

Who would be blessed (vs 12)?

What will be the result for those who endure (vs 13)?

# *"Fear & Discouragement"*

**Study:** Ezra 4:1-5, 24 **Reading:** Jeremiah 1:4-10, Hebrews 4:12-19 **Memory:** Psalm 119:14

hen my wife and I first moved to Michigan to build a guest house for pastors, we were confident that we were carrying out God's plan. This confidence started to wane as things became more difficult after we stepped out in faith. We expected that God would provide for us financially and the building process would be quick and easy. Instead, the opposite happened. We found ourselves struggling financially and even taking on some debt. The complete opposite of what we had planned was taking place. There were times when we wanted to quit, but we knew that if we chose to be faithful to God, He would be faithful to us.

Today, we will read how fear and discouragement caused the Israelites to stop the work God had called them to do. We will be reminded of the importance of pressing on when we are confident of God's plan for our lives.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The removal of the Israelites from the land of Israel by the Babylonians happened around 586 B.C. It was now around 536 B.C. and fifty years had passed since the Israelites were living in their homeland. They were now trying to re-establish themselves. Some of the main inhabitants that were currently living in the land were brought into the land by the Assyrians. These people intermarried with many of the Israelites who were left alive after the destruction of the northern tribes. They had a form of Jewish worship, and because of that, they approached Zerubbabel and asked if they could join with him and help build the temple. They claimed they had worshiped the God of Israel and sacrificed to him. These would be who the New Testament calls Samaritans. Even today, there is a small group of Samaritans who live on Mount Gerazim and claim they worship God. Though it is similar to the Jewish faith, it is a mixture of the Israelite law and other man-made ideology. Though this offer may have made things easier for those rebuilding, they had learned from their past mistakes and didn't want to mix religions. Zerubbabel refused their help, stating that they had been given orders by Cyrus to be the ones to rebuild their temple (vs 1-3).

These Samaritans and other foreigners wanted to intermix with the people of Judah and were not happy when the people of Judah rejected their offer. They set out to discourage the Israelites and make the building of the temple very difficult. They tried all they could to cause those rebuilding to be afraid to build. One of the things these foreigners chose to do was to bribe agents of the Persian empire to do what they could to hinder the rebuilding efforts. This went on for a long time. It lasted far into the reign of Darius who ruled from 512 B.C. until 486 B.C. It should be noted that "Darius" was probably more of a title than the actual name of a ruler. Much like "Pharoah" in Egypt. King Cyrus is also referred to as "Darius" in the book of Daniel (vs 4-5).

Ezra took a small detour from his historical record on the rebuilding of the temple. Verses 6-23 detail some of the instances of opposition that the Israelites faced over the next several years. He mentions Ahasuarus (486-464 B.C.) and Artexerxes (464-423 B.C.) which were kings that lived much later. It wasn't until verse 24 that he went back to his historical narrative and described how the work on the temple stopped. It appears that this work was halted from 536 B.C. until 520 B.C. when it was restarted, which we will read about tomorrow (vs 24).

### How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you allow fear and discouragement to stop you from doing what God has called you to do? These two things often go hand in hand and are tactics that the enemy of God attempts to use still today. The work on the temple was stopped because of fear and discouragemnt and God's ability to use you can be hindered because of these things as well. When you know that God wants you to do something, it is easy to let the fear of the unknown hold you back from completely carrying out His desire. This could delay or even stop the process altogether of what God wants to accomplish in your life. It is natural to think that once you do what God wants, things will be easy for you, but often the opposite occurs. It is easy to want to quit because things sometimes get harder when you seek to carry out God's plan though you expect them to be easier. Choose today not to let fear or discouragement interfere with God's plan for your life. Who heard about the rebuilding of the temple (vs 1)

Why would they not want a temple rebuild (vs 1)?

Who was heading up this effort to rebuild (vs 2)?

What did the enemies ask (vs 2)?

How did they make themselves appear not to be enemies (vs 2)?

Why would this have been a tempting offer?

Why would it have been wrong for the Israelites to accept their help?

What did the Israelite leaders tell these people (vs 3)?

Why did they say they would do this alone (vs 3)?

Why do you think they mentioned Cyrus (vs 3)?

What did the people living in the land start doing (vs 4)?

Why do you think the Israelites were afraid to keep building (vs 4)?

What did these men do for the political leaders of the land (vs 5)?

How would this interfere with the building process?

How long did this opposition go on (vs 5)?

\*\*\*Though Ezra said until the reign of Darius, he then took the next several verses to describe opposition that was faced even after that time.

What happened to the work on the temple (vs 24)?

Why do you think it stopped?

\*\*\*From the example used in the previous verses, it appears that there was political pressure to stop as a result of the bribes.

# "To Labor In Vein"

Study: Ezra 5:1-2, Haggai 1:1-11 Reading: Philippians 2:12-18, Psalm 127:1-5, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Memory: Psalm 119:14

I n early January of 2024, I had a few setbacks when building my ice rink. At that time, my wife asked me if I ever would reach a point where I would give up for the winter. At that time, I told her that if I continued to work and was diligent in adding water that it would happen. I had gone through many winters in the past where things didn't always go as planned, but as I kept pouring water on the ice rink, eventually, I was able to make it work. 2024 was different. Though I worked hard and was within a day or two of having ice that could be skated on, a long period of warm weather made it impossible to make ice since it was simply not cold enough. I was reminded that sometimes, no matter how bad I want something or no matter how hard I try, I am not the one who is in control.

Today, we are going to read how the Israelites worked very hard, but had little to show for all their efforts. We will be reminded of the importance of living in obedience to God, realizing that He is the One ultimately responsible for our success.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The Israelites had become fearful and discouraged which caused them to stop the work on the temple around 535 B.C. Around 520 B.C. God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the Israelites to resume the work on the temple. Zerubbabel and Jeshuah once again took the lead and with the constant support of the prophets, they were determined to continue working (Ezra 5:1-2).

The book of Haggai begins by describing how it was the second year of Darius the king of Persia. This is not the same Darius (Cyrus) in the book of Daniel, but this was Darius I (Hystaspes) who became the ruler of Persia in 521 B.C. The message that was given to Haggai was directed towards Zerubbabel and Jeshuah (Joshuah). The people had been declaring that it was not yet time to rebuild the temple, but God sent a message to the contrary. He asked if it was right for them to live in houses that were completed while the temple sat in ruins. Through Haggai, God asked them to examine their lives. The people worked very hard, but didn't have much to show for their labor. It seemed that they couldn't get enough for a comfortable and abundant life. It was like they were walking around with holes in their money bags. They worked so hard to earn their money, only to have it taken away from them. God was not blessing them because they chose not to continue the work that God had sent them back to Jerusalem to accomplish (Haggai 1:1-6).

The people were challenged to think about what was happening and challenged to restart the work on the temple. When they did this, God would take pleasure in them and pour out His blessings on their lives. The people had come back to Jerusalem in hopes for a better life filled with bountiful harvests, but God was not going to let that happen. Why not? Because the house of God was in ruins and nothing was being done to rebuild it. Instead, the people were putting all their time and effort into their own homes. God was causing the dew not to fall and the rain not to come, leaving them with poor crops and little to show for their efforts. God had called for a drought to come to their land to spoil all of their work. No matter how hard they tried, they simply would not be successful until they carried out the work that God had called them to do (vs 7-11).

### How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you understand that true success does not come from your hard work and effort, but it comes from the blessings of God? It is easy to think that if you just work harder at something you can make it happen, but that is not always the case. The Israelites were working very hard at being successful, but no amount of effort could take the place of the blessings of God. Many times, God will withhold His blessings on your life as He waits for you to surrender to His way and His plan. This doesn't mean that if you are doing God's plan that everything will always go the way you want, but the overall understanding is that God will bless and give you what you desire when you choose to seek Him first and do things His way. So many times believers spend hours pouring themselves into good endeavors thinking that the more work they put in, the more successful they will be. When this is not done out of obedience to God, it will never truly be successful. When you choose to live in obedience to God, you will be amazed about how much success you can truly experience.

#### Ezra 5

Who did God raise up to inspire the Israelites (vs 1)?

What did they challenge the leaders to do (vs 1-2)?

#### Haggai 1

When did the events recorded take place (vs 1)?

What role had Zerubbabel been given (vs 1)?

What were the people saying (vs 2)?

How did this make it hard on the leaders?

How did God say the people were living (vs 4)?

\*\*\*Some of the people had built luxurious homes with cedar paneling for the walls and ceilings.

What had the people neglected (vs 4)?

Why did you think the people were told to "Consider your ways" (vs 5)?

What do you think the descriptions given in verse 6 were teaching?

Why do you think God wanted them to understand this?

What did God tell them to do in verse 7?

Why do you think He repeated this?

Why is it so important to stop and think about what is taking place?

What did God want done (vs 8)? What would He do in return?

What was happening (vs 9)?

What did God withhold (vs 10)? What was going to be the result (vs 11)?

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# "Committed to Obedience"

Study: Haggai 1:12-15, Ezra 5:3-17 Reading: Daniel 1 Memory: Psalm 119:14

he first building permit I ever obtained was for some renovations on a house my wife and I had bought. I paid \$15 for that permit and we didn't need any inspections, which was probably a good thing. Things changed a lot in the next 20 years and they were different when I started building in Michigan. When I built a pole barn, I paid over \$1,000 in permits and had multiple inspections.

Today, we are going to read how getting permission to build something is not a new concept in our society. We will read how the Israelites were questioned about their permission to build the temple.

### What Does the Bible Say?

After God used Haggai to challenge the people to start working on the temple again, Zerubbabel and Jeshua led the people in obedience to God and started working on the temple. One of the reasons they did this is because they feared the Lord. They understood what had happened in the past when they didn't obey God and realized how important it was to follow God. As the people obeyed, God spoke through Haggai once again and confirmed to them that He was on their side. Since God was with them, they had nothing to fear. They had given into their personal fear and discouragement in the past, but now they chose to fear God more than men and chose to trust that God was on their side (vs 12-15).

Their choice to obey was not without opposition. Some of the governors in the regions around Jerusalem went to the Jews and challenged their authority. They asked them who gave them the permission to rebuild the temple. They also wanted a list of the names of all those who were participating in the project. This was meant to be a scare tactic, but since it had also been around 16 years since they last worked on the temple, most of these leaders in the region had probably come to power in that time. Though these other leaders wanted to see their "building permit," they did not stop them from continuing the work. The elders of the Jews were strengthened by God to carry out the work

God had called them to accomplish. God also stepped in and prevented the other governors from taking action by pending the report back from the leaders of the Persian empire (Ezra 5:3-5).

The next verses record the letter that these governors sent to Darius which questioned the Jews ability to rebuild the temple. They told Darius that when they traveled through Judah they noticed that the Jews were diligently building the temple and the work was progressing at a rapid pace. They described to Darius how they asked the Jews who gave them permission and also asked them for all of their names. The Jews responded to their request by declaring that they were servants of the God of heaven and earth. This was an indication that they believed that their God was the great God, the God who was over all gods. They were rebuilding the temple to this God which had been destroyed many years before as a result of their sin. It was Nebchadnezzar who had destroyed it, but when Cyrus defeated Babylon, a decree was made that the house should be rebuilt. Cyrus had also ordered that all the valuables that Nebuchadnezzar had taken should be sent back with the Jews to help them rebuild and were used in the temple. The Jews described how they had started this process, but had stopped working on it. The Jews and other leaders were asking that a search in the royal records be made to confirm that the Jews had the proper permission to rebuild the temple (vs 6-17).

### How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you willing to let your faith and trust in God overcome your fear? It was fear that stopped them from obeying in the first place, and shortly after they made the decision to act in faith, they were faced with another obstacle. Instead of faltering this time, they chose to fear God more than they feared what the people of the land would say. God gave them the boldness and God also blessed them when they chose to obey. I think it is also significant to note that they didn't stop the work while they waited for word back from Darius (it would have taken several months), but they chose not to let this obstacle keep them from God's will. This is a great example for you to learn from and follow. Commit to listen to God's plan and commit to carry out God's plan, choosing to fear Him more than men.

#### **Suggestions for Prayer**

\* Ask God to give you the strength to carry out your tasks.

\* Praise God because He has the power to make you succeed. Haggai 1 What did the Jews do (vs 12)?

What was their attitude (vs 12)?

Why do you think the fear of God was so important?

What did God declare to the people (vs 13)?

Why do you think this message was vital to their success?

Why is this message so important for you to understand today?

Ezra 5

What question did the other rulers in the area ask the Jews (vs 3)?

What other question did they ask (vs 4)?

Why do you think asking for their names could cause some fear?

What was on the eye of the Jews (vs 5)? What do you think this meant?

What did the Jews continue to do (vs 5)?

What did the other governors do (vs 6)?

What did they tell Darius (vs 8)?

What did the Jewish leaders declare about God (vs 11)?

What did they declare about the destruciton of their temple (vs 12)? Why do you think they included this?

What did Cyrus decree (vs 13)?

What had Darius given them permission to do (vs 14-16)?

What did they request (vs 17)?

# "From Trouble to Blessing"

**Study:** Ezra 6:1-12 **Reading:** 2 Samuel 15:13-30, 17:1-14 **Memory:** Psalm 119:14

hen I first started as a substitute teacher in the public school, I did want to minister to the kids, but one of the main reasons was simply that I needed the money. I tried to sub as often as I could and slowly started to get to know the teachers and the leaders. After a year or two, I was asked by both the school counselor and one of the county leaders to do some tutoring. They not only wanted me to help a girl who was struggling in school, but they asked me specifically to help because she had attempted to commit suicide. In my amazement, both school and the county wanted to pay me for tutoring this girl, which gave me double pay.

Today, we will read how God desires to bless us when we choose to live in obedience to him. This blessing will often be far beyond what we could have ever imagined.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Once the request to search the historical documents reached Darius, he ordered that the archives, which were kept in Babylonia, be searched. Darius had begun ruling in 521 B.C. and it was around 520 B.C. when this search was made, 16 years after the work on the temple was stopped. It appears that nothing was found in Babylonia, but in Ecbatana, where Cyrus had a summer home, a scroll was found that contained important information. They found a decree from Cyrus stating that the house of God should be rebuilt in Jerusalem. This included an altar to offer sacrifices to their God. This work was to be paid for from the royal treasury. Even the size of this temple was given, which was to be bigger than the temple that Solomon had built. The valuables that were originally taken by Nebuchadnezzar were to be returned with the Jews and used in the temple to worship God (vs 1-5).

The instruction was then given by Darius that the government officials who were attempting to stop the Jews were to leave the Jews alone. They were to keep away from them and let the Jews and their leaders continue the work on the temple. In addition to this, Darius ordered that money be given to the Jews to help them in this work. The tribute money that was to be used was to come from the areas that the opposing governors were from. This would have not made these other governors happy because it would be taking money away from them. In addition to money for the materials to build, the Jews were also to be supplied with any of the food and animals they would need when they offered their sacrifices. Darius also asked the Jews to pray to God on his behalf and the behalf of the family (vs 6-10).

To show how serious Darius was about this decree being kept, he ordered that anyone who interfered with the Jews was to be impaled and his house made into a dunghill. Darius wanted the God of the Jews on His side and understood that their God had the power to overthrow any attempts that were made to hinder His people. Not only was this command to be put in place, but Darius wanted this to be enacted as soon as possible (vs 11-12).

### How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the great power of God? These governors who surrounded Israel thought they were going to stop Israel by appealing to Darius. Not only did they fail, but their actions ended up costing them a great deal since now they were responsible to help pay for the temple which they had tried to stop. Both Cyrus and Darius had a great respect for the God of Israel. It is not fully clear why, but perhaps they studied the history of the Babylonians and what happened to Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. Perhaps the influence of Daniel and other Jews helped these leaders understand the greatness of God. However it happened, it was ultimately God who orchestrated all of these events and blessed the Israelites greatly. When you live for God and follow Him in obedience, even when the times are hard, He will often bless you in abundant ways. This means that even when people are out to do you harm, God has the ability to turn that harm into a great blessing.

### Thought for the day

What did Darius order (vs 1)?

What was found (vs 2)?

When was this decree originally issued (vs 3)?

What was it concerning (vs 3)?

What dimensions were given (vs 3)?

Why do you think these were given?

Where was the money to come from (vs 4)?

What else was sent back with the Jews (vs 5)?

What did Darius instruct the other governors to do (vs 6)?

Why is this significant?

What were they to allow the Jews to do (vs 7)?

What was to be paid (vs 8)?

Where was the money to come from (vs 8)?

Why do you think God chose to make it happen this way?

What else were the governors to provide (vs 9)?

How do you think this made the governors feel?

What did Darius ask the Jews to do for him (vs 10)? Why do you think he asked this?

What was to happen to anyone who did not carry out this order (vs 11)?

What did Darius declare in verse 12? Why do you think he made such a bold declaration?

# "Returning Home"

Study: Ezra 6:13-14, Haggai 2:1-9, Zechariah 1:1-6 Reading: Ezekiel 10:1-22 Memory: Psalm 119:14

When we fell into some difficult financial times at the church I pastored in Wisconsin, I chose to reduce my salary and to start buying and selling items on ebay. One of the men in our church didn't like that decision since I lived in the parsonage next to church. He felt that my choice to buy and sell on church property was wrong. His reasoning was that Jesus cast out the money changers in the the temple. He made a big stink about what I was doing and brought it up in a church meeting. No one else seemed to agree with him and he ended up walking out. This man mistakenly focused on the church property being far more important that what was taking place in the hearts and lives of the people of the church.

Today, we will read how God encouraged the people not to be discouraged because the new temple was not as nice as the old one. He wanted them to understand His presence is what made the temple great.

## What Does the Bible Say?

The Israelites were not only given the green light to continue to build, but they were given the extra resources needed to complete the temple. The foreign governors who tried to stop the Jews now gave them support as Darius had ordered. The Jews continued building with the help of Haggai and Zachariah who lead the way by proclaiming God's truth to them. They built it just as God had instructed them and they carried this out under the assistance of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes. It appears Artaxerxes is mentioned here because he helped contribute later on. The temple was finished while Darius was ruler in 516 B.C. (Ezra 6:13-14).

Though the temple was finished in the sixth year of Darius, we will step back in time to the second year of Darius, sometime around 520 B.C. The previous verses in Ezra mentioned how Haggia had been a help and chapter 2 of Haggai described some of the way he was a help. God told Haggai to give Zerubbabel a message. Zerubbabel was to ask those who were working on the temple if anyone had seen the original temple before it was destroyed. As has been mentioned before, these men thought that the new temple was nothing compared to the old one. This is one thing that led to the work stopping in the first place. God was telling these men not to discourage the people, but to rejoice that the temple was being rebuilt. The full magnificence of the temple had nothing to do with the building itself, but it was the Spirit of God which indwelt the temple that made it great. If they chose to continue the work on the temple, they would once again see the glory of God fill the temple and the true magnificence of the temple would return. They were not to fear or be discouraged, but to continue in the work so the presence of God would have a place to dwell among them (Haggai 2:1-9).

About a month after God sent a message for Haggai to give the people, God sent a message to Zechariah. This message described how God had been angry with their fathers, but if they chose to return to Him, He would return to them. The people were challenged to act differently than their fathers. Their fathers failed to listen to the prophets and what their prophets told them to do. The people were told to examine what happened to their fathers. God wanted them to repent and turn to Him, carrying out the commands He had given them. Part of these commands were to finish the temple (Zechariah 1:1-6)

### How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you value the spiritual working of God more than you do the physical things you participate in? It is easy to allow physical things to become far more important than the spiritual things. I believe it is good to keep up physical appearances, especially those in a church building, but that should not be a central focus of a church. The church is not the building, but the body of believers. Many churches end up splitting or shutting down because of arguments that started over physical things. Choose to enjoy the physical things God has given you to help worship Him, but make sure you keep those things in the proper perspective.

#### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* Thank God for the physical things He has given you.
- \* Ask God to help you have the proper perspective of the spiritual and physical.
- \* Praise God because His presence is amazing.

#### Ezra 6

What did the governors do for the Jews (vs 13)?

Why do you think they chose to obey Darius?

What did the elders lead the Jews to do (vs 14)?

What two men played a great role in this (vs 14)?

1. 2.

How do you see that accomplishing God's work and leading His people is the responsibility of more than just one person?

Why do you think the decrees of the Persian leaders are emphasized (vs 14)?

#### Haggai 2

Who was Haggai supposed to speak to (vs 2)?

What were these leaders to ask the people (vs 3)?

What did God know about their feelings (vs 3)?

What were the people challenged to do (vs 4)?

Why did God emphasize He was with them (vs 4)?

What was in their midst (vs 5)?

What was God going to do in a little while (vs 6)?

What did God declare about the physical things of the temple (v 8)?

What did God want to give (vs 9)?

#### Zechariah 1

What did God call the people to do (vs 3)?

Who did He want them to learn from (vs 4-6)?

#### Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me! 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. 10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! 11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. 12 Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! 13 With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. 14 In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.