

----- Haggai -----

3484d AM, 4194 JP, 520 BC

1016. In the second year of king Darius, which was in the 65th Olympiad, Haggai the prophet reproved the Jews for their idleness in not rebuilding the temple. Their neglect in this matter was the cause of crop failures and other plagues that continually happened to them between the first and third Sabbatical years. He earnestly persuaded them to change their ways. Then Zerubbabel, the governor of the Jews and Joshua, the high priest, and all the people earnestly began to rebuild the temple on the twenty-fourth day of the same month. {#Hag 1:1-15}

3485a AM, 4194 JP, 520 BC

1017. On the twenty-first day of the seventh month in the same year, Haggai encouraged the Jews to persevere in the work with a promise of God's presence and blessing on them. The beginnings of this present structure did not compare with the glory of the former temple of sixty-nine years earlier. However, he told them that the Messiah, who was born five hundred and sixteen years later, as it turned out, would be first shown in this temple, and that on account of this, peace would flow to all nations. If they considered that fact, then they would have to acknowledge that the glory of

this temple would excel the beauty of the former. {#Hag 2:1-9}

1018. In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the people were exhorted to repentance by Zechariah, the son of Berachiah. {#Zec 1:1-6}

1019. On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month of this same second year, about halfway between seedtime (which immediately followed the end of the sabbatical year) and the harvest, the temple began to be built on its old foundations by Zerubbabel and Joshua, the high priest, with the assistance of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. {#Ezr 5:1,2 Hag 2:10,18,19}

1020. On the same twenty-fourth day, the two last prophecies of Haggai were revealed to him. One vision concerned the end of the plagues which they were experiencing. The other was about the overthrow of various kingdoms and the exaltation of Zerubbabel. {#Hag 2:10-23}

1024. The edict of Cyrus for the rebuilding of the temple was found at Achmetha or Ecbatana, in the province of the Medes. Darius sent this and a second command in favour of the Jews to Tatnai and his companions. They were ordered not to hinder the work of the Lord's house but help it along.

The costs of the project were to be taken from the king's tribute. Tatnai and his companions were to pay the costs for the daily sacrifices that were to be offered by the priests at Jerusalem. With this new command, and the encouragement of Haggai and Zechariah, they enthusiastically completed the work. {#Ezr 6:1-14}

3589a AM, 4298 JP, 416 BC

1307. Jerome also stated that after Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, he saw no other prophet till John the Baptist. {Jerome, Commentary on Isaiah chapter 49.} See also the Apocrypha. {#/ Apc 1Ma 4:46 9:27} {*Augustine, City of God, l. 17. c. 24. 2:360} In the book of Pirke Abbeth we read that the men of the Great Synagogue succeeded the prophets. However, in later years the Jews count even Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi among their number, and make Ezra the head of this Great Synagogue.