# Corona Virus and Ancient Israel -- Jerusalem Is Rebuilt

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

#### Help Bar Deadly Influenza From Seattle

By DR. J. D. TUTTLE. State Health Commissioner

Don't get into crowds, don't cough or sneeze without using a handkerchief, get plenty of fresh air, and when the symptoms of a cold appear isolate yourself as far as possible from others.

By SURGEON GENERAL RUPERT BLUE. U. S. Public Health Service

First there is a chill, then fever, headache, backache, reddening of the eyes, aches all over the body and general prostration. Persons so attacked should go to bed at once and call a physician.

FOR INFORMATION

The Seattle Win Daily Times

# CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, SHOWS CLOSED EPIDEMIC PUTS BAN ON ALL PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

MR. LOVERING'S

W. S. Solf Heads

COMMENT

Mayor and City Health Officer Will Permit None but Gatherings in Open Air.

POLICE ORDERED TO CLOSE PUBLIC PLACES

Hun Foreign Office

Portland. \$4,521,531.00 850,441.00 Spokane. \$1,658,042,00 578,404.00 TACOMA. \$1.179.772.00 520,147.00



Official Figures Given Out at Noon Today Show Total of \$13,198,000

Morgan Shaking Country for 50 Miles; Death Toll Heavy

FULL COLOR MAP
OF THE
WESTERN FRONT
WILL APPEAR IN
THE SUNDAY TIMES
TOMORROW

by Delay of Macy Board to Announce Its Awards,

Mr. Jermane's Dispatch.

Associated Press Summary.

FRENCH and American trong are annahing into the German positions in ground in the hill country near the Singe River, says today's Associated Estat and west of the Argonne and northwest of Rheims there has been heavy flighting, to the advantage of the Allien.

Americans Attack Along Ex-Several Villages From Foe.



"That which hath been is that which shall be; and that which hath been done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there a thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been long ago, in the ages which were before us" (Eccl. 1:9-10).

- "Black Death" spread across Europe in the years 1346-1353, killing an estimated 60 million.
- Smallpox outbreak of 1520 killed 5 8 million people.
- Yellow fever outbreak over the course of spring and summer of 1878 killed an estimated 13,000 - 20,000.

- The "Third Plague" of 1855 ultimately led to more than 12 million deaths in India and China, with about 10 million in India alone.
- The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1919 killed millions. Older estimates say it killed 40 50 million people while current estimates say 50 100 million people worldwide were killed. In the United States alone, about 28% of the population suffered, and 500,000 to 675,000 died.
- Eccl. 7:14 says, "In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider."

# Restoration Of God's People

Jeremiah 27:22; cf. 25:11-12













# Background of Haggai & Nehemiah Ezra 1-6

#### **Captivity**

- 606 B.C. First captives taken by Nebuchadnezzar. Dan. 1:1-2
- 597 B.C. Second Group (10,000) taken to Babylon. 2 Kgs. 24:10-16; Ezek. 1:1-3
- 586 B.C. Jerusalem falls, temple destroyed.
   2 Kgs 25:1-21
- 539 B.C. Babylon falls to Medes and Persians.
   Dan. 5: 25ff; Isa. 44:27-45:1-4

Background of Haggai & Nehemiah Ezra 1-6

#### Restoration

- 536 B.C. Cyrus issues a decree (538) for the Jews to go back to Jerusalem; after 70 years. (Cf. Jer. 25:11; 29:10-14)
  - Almost 50,000 return under the leadership of Zerubbabel (2 Chron. 36:21-23; Ezra 1; 2:64-65)
- 516 B.C. The temple is completed. Ezra 6:15
- 457 B.C. Ezra led a second remnant of 2,058 Jews to Jerusalem. Ezra 8:1-34
- 444 B.C. Nehemiah lead a third remnant back.
   Neh. 2

## Captives Free to Return 536 B.C.

- Approximately 50,000 Jews gathered in Babylon to start home (Ezra 2:64-65)
- No "gods" to return to the Jews, WHY? However:
  - Many valuable vessels taken from the temple and palace in Nebuchadnezzar's day are returned.
     Ezra 2:68-69
    - 5,400 gold and silver vessels returned
  - Jews who stayed behind helped their brethren with gifts to make their trip easier. Ezra. 1
- It was a day of great joy as they began the trip!
  - However, the tasks ahead would not be easy

## Captives Free to Return

536 B.C.

- Many Israelites stayed where they were
  - ♦ It has been almost 200 years since the first captives have been taken from Israel.
    721 B.C.
  - The most recent captives have been gone 50 years
    - They built homes and were content to stay
  - It was their choice whether to return or not.

# The People of Palestine

- They profited from the Jews' absence
  - Samaritans had grown in power
    - Claimed the territory around the ruins of Jerusalem
  - Ammonites moved out of their near-desert territory into the fertile highlands of Gilead
  - Edom moved out of the dry Negeb into land once belonging to Judah
  - Nomadic tribes moved nearer the fertile lands



#### Persian Kings

These rulers cover the period of restoration during the time of: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

- Cyrus (559-529) Conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.
   with Darius the Mede. Dan. 5:30-31
- Cambyses (529-522) Also called "Artaxerxes" Commanded work on temple to cease.
   Ezra 4:7,11,23

#### Persian Kings

These rulers cover the period of restoration during the time of: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

- Darius I (522-486) Authorized the completion of temple. Ezra 4:24-6:15, Book of Haggai
- Xerxes (485-465) Also called "Ahasuerus"
   --Esther was his queen, Book of Esther.
- Artaxerxes (465-425) Authorized Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem, Ezra 7; Book of Nehemiah.

#### The "three returns" in Ezra and Nehemiah:

- Jews return home under the leadership of Zerubbabel to build the temple. (Book of Haggai) Cf. Ezra 3:10ff; cf. Haggai 2:3
- Ezra returns with the Priests to start the spiritual reform. Ezra 3
- 3. Nehemiah returns to build the walls. (Book of Nehemiah)
- Adversaries: Samaritans desired to help build the temple. Ezra 4:1ff; Nehemiah 2:17ff; cf. 2 Kings 17:32.
- ♦ Jews accused of treason. Ezra 4:6ff; 11ff

- Praised God for His mercy
- Grief that day also
  - Some present who could remember the splendor of the temple Nebuchadnezzar had burned
  - This one would never compare to it!

♦Cf. Ezra 3:10ff; cf. Haggai 2:3

- Enemies wrote a letter to the new king Cambyses (Cyrus' son) after Cyrus had died
- Asked the king to check the records to see if Jerusalem had not always been rebellious. Ezra 4:15
  - Cambyses checked and he found that Jerusalem had been rebellious. Ezra 4:17ff
  - As a result, he had the work stopped and nothing more was accomplished for 16 years. Ezra 4:21
  - The people built for themselves houses, yet did not prosper. Haggai 1:2-11

- When king Darius the Great (Cyrus' grandson) Darius came to power, Haggai and Zechariah urged the people to resume work. (Ezra 5:1)
  - The people really needed this encouragement

- A new letter is sent to the king telling the story of Jerusalem correctly (Ezra 5)
  - Darius checked the records and found the original decree from Cyrus in the palace of Achmetha in Media
  - The gave orders for the work to be finished and he forbade ANY opposition. (Ezra 6:1-2)
- The temple was finished 20 years after it was begun
  - ♦ A total of 4 years labor time (520-516 B.C.)

### Esther

♦ Takes place approximately between chapters 6 and 7 of the book of Ezra.

### History – Haggai

Note four oracles are dated in this book that cover a period of four months.

- 1:1 In the second year of Darius, the sixth month, first day.
- 2:1 In the seventh month, twenty-first day.
- 2:10 In the ninth month, twenty-fourth day.
- 2:20 In the ninth month, twenty-fourth day.

### History – Haggai

- ❖ Date of the writing of Haggai. 1:1 (520 B.C.)
- Darius I, reigned over Persia from 522 to 486 B.C. Therefore these four messages would have been delivered by Haggai about 520 B.C., "in the second year of Darius the king" (1:1).
- Sixteen years earlier (536 B.C.) 50,000 Jews had returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel. (cf. Isaiah 44:24-45:7; Jeremiah 25:11)

### History – Haggai

- ♦ Haggai and Zechariah were sent to <u>stir up the</u> <u>people</u> and encourage them to complete the work. Ezra 5:1-2
- Apathy. Haggai 1:2ff "It is not the time (for us) to come, the time for Jehovah's house to be built."
  - NOTE: Neither danger nor difficulty had prevented them from building their own luxurious houses.

# Message 1 – The Time For Rebuilding The Temple Is Overdue. 1:1-15

# Consider your ways! Literally, the prophet urged, "Set your heart upon your ways."

- ♦ Work, but never satisfied.
  - Without the Lord, contentment and lasting happiness is impossible. Haggai 1:6
- ♦ Cf. Isaiah 5:8, 12; Proverbs 4:25-27
- ♦ Priorities were wrong. Proverbs 14:12;Jeremiah 10:23; cf. Matthew 6:33;1 Timothy 6:6-8; Philippians 4:6-7

# Message 1 – The Time For Rebuilding The Temple Is Overdue. 1:1-15

#### Response to this message. Haggai 1:12 -15

- Remnant of the people obeyed and feared. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10).
- Spirit stirred.
- Work started 23 days after the word was first delivered by Haggai (cf. 1:1 with 1:15)

# Message 2 – Consolation To Those Who Remembered The Former Glory. 2:1-9

#### The Lord will be with the builders of the temple. 2:1-5

- Anticipated disappointment. Cf. Ezra 3:12
- ♦ Splendor of Solomon's temple. 1 Kings 6:22,28,30; 7:48-50
- "Be Strong" -- Strength not in numbers
   (Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Judges 7; cf. Ephesians 6:10)
- ♦ "Work" cf. Nehemiah 4:6; Matthew 9:37-39
- ♦ "I am with you." cf. Matthew 28:20

# Message 2 – Consolation To Those Who Remembered The Former Glory. 2:1-9

#### The Temple's Future Glory. 2:6-9

- Gifts received from:
  - ♦ Cyrus (Ezra 1:7-11; 3:7)
  - ♦ Darius (Ezra 6:9-13)
  - ♦ Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:12-26)
  - ♦ Other Gentiles. (Isaiah 60:5,11) Glorified Zion.

♦ May be a type of the temple built by Christ. (cf. Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Hebrews 12:26-29)

# Message 3 – Reply To Those Who Thought God's Blessings Were To Slow. 2:10-19

#### Israel needed to be cleansed. 2:10-14

- Can that which is unclean be made holy by coming in contact with that which is holy? NO! (Cf. Leviticus 10:8-10)
- ♦ Can that which is clean be made unclean by coming in contact with that which is unclean? YES! (cf. Numbers 19:11,22)

Returning to the land, rebuilding the temple did not make them clean... needed a renewed attitude toward the Lord. Vs. 14

# Message 3 – Reply To Those Who Thought God's Blessings Were To Slow. 2:10-19

### Apathy had corrupted them. Cf. Malachi 1:7ff

- - ♦Look from this day and backward 14-16 years to the present.
    - ♦God had not blessed them.
      Cf. Amos 4:6-11
  - ♦Look from this day forward with a change of spirit to God's blessings.

### History

♦ Work finished: Cf. Nehemiah 4:6; 6:15

"And the elders of the Jews builded and prospered, through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king." Ezra 6:14-15

# Message 4 – The Lord Renews The Promise Of Salvation. 2:20-23

#### God rules in the kingdoms of men. 2:21-22

- Prophets declared God's promise to overthrow the "throne of kingdoms" and the "strength of the kingdoms of nations."
- A Haggai repeats the prophecy of the shaking of the world. When this shaking takes place the throne of the kingdoms of men shall be thrown down, and the unshakeable kingdom of God shall be established. (Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:26-28)

# Message 4 – The Lord Renews The Promise Of Salvation. 2:20-23

#### God rules in the kingdoms of men. 2:21-22

- Messianic Hope Preserved In Zerubbabel. 2:23
  - ♦ Make thee "as a signet," (seal of authority).
  - ♦ God did keep his promise to Zerubbabel because he is a direct descendant of David (2 Samuel 7:11-14) and an ancestor of Jesus in the flesh (Matthew 1:12-13; Luke 3:27).

### Application

- God blesses those who put Him first.
- Matthew 6:19-20, 33; Luke 12:16-21;
   Luke 14:16-24; Colossians 3:1ff