

“FROM THE RUINS!”

Welcome: How great is your capacity to ruin things?
In what areas do you excel?!!

Word: Recap The first wave of exiles returning from Babylon to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua, had been rebuked by Haggai. Why?. Haggai 1 v 4. Why do you think it was important to the Lord that the Temple should be rebuilt? Haggai 1 v 8-11

In what ways do we dishonour the name of the Lord?
Is there a blight upon our nation?

Read Chapter 2 v 1-9 From the ruins.

A month after the building project recommenced, the Lord gave them, not a rebuke, but an encouragement to continue!

Imagine the scene: the huge Temple site, burned down, destroyed, overgrown rubble, and chaos. A disheartening ruin of what was once so beautiful.

Use your imagination to identify the problems they faced

a) Physically: How hard was the work? What would be involved?

b) Psychologically: Returning after 50-60 years in captivity

How might they view God and the mission? - What was their mindset?

In what ways does the Lord encourage them? See v 2-5. He spoke strength and purpose into them, not negativity Ex 29 v 45-46

What was the implication of the Covenant promise to Israel?

What does God reveal of His eternal purpose? v 6

(NB “Desired” may refer to an individual, ie Messiah, or to riches.)

Consider the following statements: Acts 17 v 24; 1 Cor.3 v 16; 6 v 19;

2 Cor.6 v16; Heb 12 v 25-29 Rev.21 v22

Are WE that glorious temple in the making?!!

There are many occasions when ‘shaking’ occurs before an act or communication of God

- what is achieved? Have you ever experienced being shaken, and being brought to your senses by the Lord? What were you ‘shaken out of’?
- What was the result of God’s word through Haggai : Ezra.6 v 14-18.

Consider!- The people were small in number... inadequate – physically, emotionally and spiritually for the task given to them, and the reconstructed Temple was inferior in size and finish to its predecessor, but God was pleased, and blessed them.

What encouragement can we receive from this?

Worship There may be “ruins” concerning us at the moment, in our own lives, or in the lives of others. In quietness allow the Lord to speak into these situations.

Worship leader reads 1 Cor. 3 v 9-11

In song or word worship the One who is our foundation and salvation.

You might like to construct a psalm together- each person writes 2 lines of thanksgiving or praise and, as the couplets are read out, in unison we say, between each contribution, “For His love endures for ever!”

Witness What prayers, or actions are to be taken, this week, to rebuild ruins around us?

