Haggai Background

931 BC - split into two kingdoms Israel Judah 722 BC - destroyed by Assyria 586 BC - taken into exile by Babylon (Jerusalem & the temple destroyed)

- **539** BC the Persian King Cyrus destroyed the Babylonian empire (It lasted approximately 70 years as predicted by Jeremiah 25:11-12)
- **538** BC Cyrus decreed that the exiles could return to Judah and build the temple (as predicted by Jeremiah 29:10-14) Ezra 1
- Those that returned set up the altar and offered sacrifices - Ezra 2-3
- In the second year, they began work on the foundation, but local opposition brought the work to a halt - Ezra 3-4
- **520** BC after 16-17 years of delay, <u>Haggai</u> began to speak to the people about finishing the temple Ezra 5:1