

**The Big Idea:** Our “Unlikely Hero” today is Zerubbabel. He was the grandson of Jeconiah, who was the last king of Judah before the people of Judah were exiled to Babylon at the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar. He was the governor of the small province of Judah that the Babylonians left for the Jews to live in. Under the decree of King Cyrus, who was ruler of the Babylonian empire, it gave permission for the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem in 538 B.C. to rebuild the temple. Since Zerubbabel was the grandson of a king of Judah, he was of royal blood. Hence the events in this story show how God kept his covenant with King David. This was the royal covenant, which was fulfilled in Jesus, the King of kings.

**What can we learn from this story? From this unlikely hero?**

**1. The people had lost \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord’s house.’”* – Haggai 1:2

*Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?* – Haggai 1:4

**2. The people were more concerned about their own \_\_\_\_\_, than God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

*So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God.* – Haggai 1:14

**3. God stirs the heart of his \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him.*  
– Haggai 1:12

#### 4. Obedience comes from hearing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, "You have no part with us in building a temple to our God. We alone will build it for the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us. - Ezra 4:3

#### 5. Zerubbabel refuses to \_\_\_\_\_.

Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building. They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia. - Ezra 4:4-5

Thus, the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia. - Ezra 4:24

#### 6. Zerubbabel faced \_\_\_\_\_ and they hit the \_\_\_\_\_!

So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." <sup>8</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>9</sup> "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you." - Zechariah 4:6,8-9

#### 7. What God \_\_\_\_\_, God \_\_\_\_\_ by His Spirit!

Where is God calling you to rebuild your life?  
What opposition will you face? What about the church?  
How can you be part of what God wants to do in HIS HOUSE?

**Will you be God's next UNLIKELY HERO?**

<sup>1</sup> In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: <sup>2</sup> This is what the Lord Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house.'" <sup>3</sup> Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: <sup>4</sup> "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" <sup>5</sup> Now this is what the Lord Almighty

says: "Give careful thought to your ways".....<sup>12</sup> Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord. <sup>14</sup> So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God, <sup>15</sup> on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

- Haggai 1:1-5,12-15

<sup>1</sup> Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. <sup>2</sup> He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. <sup>3</sup> Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." <sup>4</sup> I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" <sup>5</sup> He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied. <sup>6</sup> So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. <sup>7</sup> "What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'" <sup>8</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>9</sup> "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.

- Zechariah 4:1-9