

THE STORY

God keeps his promise of return

Ezra 1:1-3, Jeremiah 25:11-12, Isaiah 45:1-3

Why is the temple such a big deal?

The Passion— The temple is a picture of God’s passion to dwell among his people.

The Problem— Sin separates his people and the world from him.

The Solution— God requires a blood sacrifice so we can regain access to his presence.

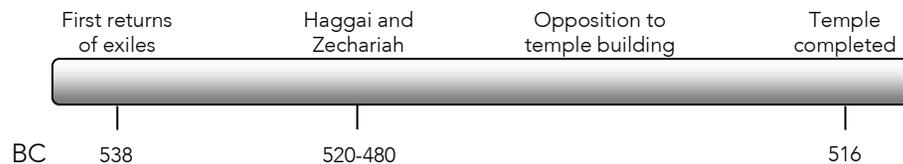
God’s people return to rebuild the temple

Ezra 3:1-3

Haggai calls the people back to building

Haggai 1

Keep the main thing the main thing



Questions for the Week

Big Idea: Sometimes, when hope seems dead and the darkness of night closes in strong against us, God is about to do something really big.

Key Verse: Haggai 1:5-6

⁵ Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”

Why did God rescue the Israelites again?

In what ways have you seen or experienced the rescuing power of God?

What did the Israelites do to deserve the mercy they received?

What reason does God have for being merciful to you?

The Jews returned home to rebuild the temple, the dwelling place of God on earth. Why was it important for them to do this?

Where does God dwell on earth today?

In Haggai 1 we learned that the people got sidetracked from the work. What slowed down their work and what got them moving again?

What did God promise the people if they would move forward with his work (Haggai 2)? How can this bring hope and inspiration to walk in obedience to God’s leading?

We talked how sometimes God’s big thing becomes our small thing. When this happens we can get of track. What are some examples of how God’s big thing can become our small thing?

Week 19
The Return Home
February 4, 2018



The World of Ancient Israel



50,000

538 BC