

God's People on Vacation

(Ezra 1-4, Hag. 1:1) Series: Haggai – Getting Back to Work
On November 1, 2020, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

Haggai's background

- His ministry is precisely dated (2nd year of King Darius of Persia = 520 BC)
- Prophecies span a few months (Hag. 1:14-15; 2:1, 10, 20)
- Mentioned in Ezra 5:1; 6:1

The Temple's background

- David not allowed by God to build it (2 Sam. 7:1-2)
- Solomon's peace time kingdom was ideal (1 Kings 6:1)
- God punished His people for faithlessness (2 Kings 24:2-4)
 - Nebuchadnezzar took Jews (from tribe of Judah) captive (605 BC)
 - Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed by Babylonians (586 BC)
- Some Jews authorized to return to rebuild the Temple (538 BC)
 - They got off to a good start (Ez. 2:64-65; 3:2; 3:4; 3:10-11)

Discouragement comes

- Discouragement from within (Ez. 3:12)
- Discouragement from outside (Ez. 4:1-23)
 - Recognizing the subtle threat:
 - 1) The assignment was exclusive according to _____
 - 2) The assignment was exclusive according to the _____

The work stops ("vacation" starts) (Ez. 4:24)

- Government forced a stop
- Adversaries *enforced* it

God calls the idle people back to work (Hag. 1:1)

- Have *you* left your "first love" (Rev. 2:4-5)?
 - lost sight of why you chose to follow Jesus
 - become discouraged
 - been distracted
 - on a spiritual "vacation."

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Discouragement comes

- Discouragement from within (Ez. 3:12)
- Discouragement from outside (Ez. 4:1-23)
 - Recognizing the subtle threat:
 - 1) The assignment was exclusive according to **God**
 - 2) The assignment was exclusive according to the **government**

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