

Haggai



Zechariah



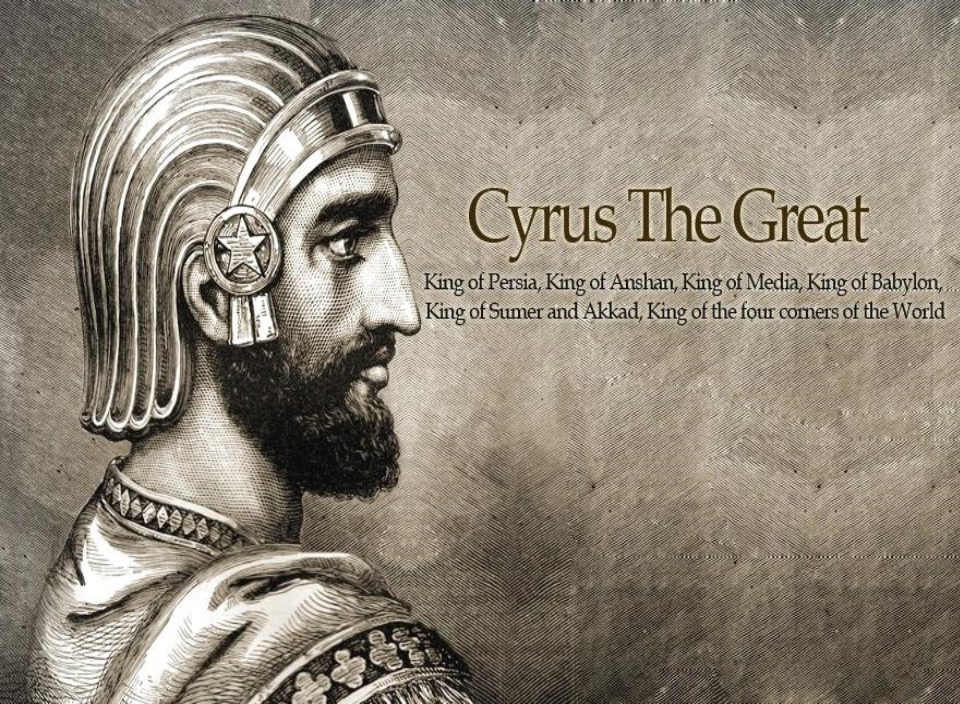
- A close connection between Haggai and Zechariah
- Both books written by the same person?
- Outside of the Exodus, nothing shaped the historical progress of Israel than the Babylonian Exile
- Yehud = the name of a Persian province; it is the former Judah
- The former Judah belonged to Persia, then the Greeks, Romans, Muslims, and British

The Persian Empire

C. 559-530 B.C.E.



- Haggai = Chag, pilgrimage festival = Festal One
- Haggai's book covers 4 months, then Zechariah takes over
- Haggai overlaps with Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Malachai and briefly with Zechariah
- By this time, Ephraim/Israel already exiled and dispersed by the Assyrians
- Persia conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.

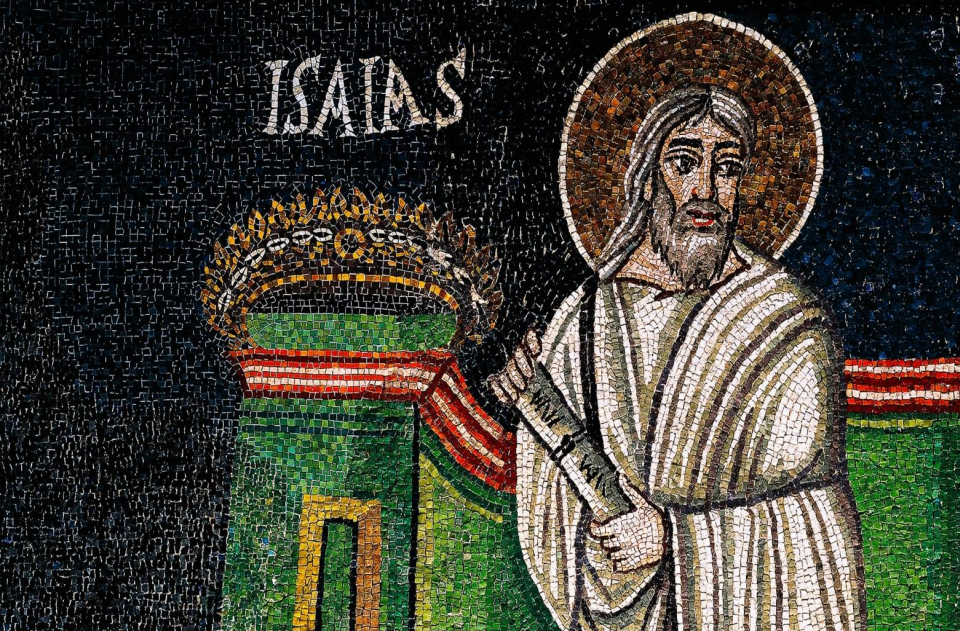


Cyrus The Great

King of Persia, King of Anshan, King of Media, King of Babylon,
King of Sumer and Akkad, King of the four corners of the World



- King Cyrus, progressive, allowed conquered people to remain intact
- Persia offered assimilation to the Jews, so few returned to Yehud
- Communal worship and maintaining their traditions kept them united in Babylon
- From this, eventually the Synagogue system arose
- Synagogue separate from the Temple



- Jews were a unique culture and faith, seemed strange to the people of wherever they were sent
- Exilic = The period at the beginning and during the Babylonian Exile
- Post-Exilic = after exile Pre-Exilic = prior exile
- Isaiah = Pre-Exilic, Ezekiel = Exilic
- Isaiah showed God's approval of Cyrus
- Isaiah 44:28 & 45:1



Eber Nahara

- After Cyrus (then Cambyses) Darius took over
- Persian Empire divided into Satrapies, each containing a number of provinces
- Satrapy Eber Nahara contained Yehud
- Sheshbazzar first Jewish governor, High Priest Joshua
- Sheshbazzar faced the impossible task to rebuild the Temple because of lack of funds, and because the new residents of former Judah (mostly Samaritans) opposed it

- Zerubbabel began his attempt to rebuild the Temple about 520 B.C.
- He had a better funding source
- Zerubbabel was loyal to Persia, and accepted by the Jews
- High Priest Joshua accepted by Jews, he was of the right lineage
- Ezra 4:1 – 5
- Returning Jews were unwanted outsiders





WHY DO WE STILL NEED A TEMPLE?

- Haggai and Zechariah pressure the Jews to restart the rebuilding of the Temple
- Temple (Tabernacle) commanded in the Law of Moses, symbol of Israel being set-apart for Him
- Yeshua will rule from the Millennial Temple for 1000 years
- Matthew 5:17 – 18 Revelation 21:1 - 5



- Without the Temple, God was distant
- Haggai and Zechariah realized there was no immediate hope for a restored Jewish monarchy
- Before WWII, Christians didn't think about Israel because it didn't exist
- Haggai and Zechariah's goal was not to restore the Jewish monarchy, but rather to restore Israel's fellowship with God

THE TEMPLE IS COMPLETED

- Under Zerubbabel, the Temple is completed in 4 ½ years
- But...the Ark was missing, meaning the original Torah scrolls were missing
- Jeremiah 31:30 – 32
- The prophesied New Covenant assured the Jews the Torah would continue



IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE



- The value of the Torah was not the scrolls, it was the truth it contained
- Carol and Eric Meyers
- “We....have found Haggai to stand squarely in the tradition of his prophetic forebears.... Points towards a future that was at first uncertain.... Eases his countrymen over the trauma of return, rouses them to work on the Temple”
- Only a couple more Prophets before their era ended