

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
Haggai 2:20-23 and Ezra 5:2-6:12

1. What happened in Sunday's study in Haggai 2:10-19?
 - a. God explained that the holy is defiled by the unholy and when they were not faithful to God, the things they put their hands to were not blessed.
 - b. God marked the date to tell them that now that they have chosen to be faithful to Him once again, he would bless the things that they put their hands to.

2. What does God tell Zerubbabel through Haggai in Haggai 2:20-22?
 - a. "I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms..." You get the picture!
 - b. "I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you."

3. What does God mean when he tells Zerubbabel that he will make him like "my signet ring?"
 - a. When something came with the imprint of a king's signet ring, it was clear that it was from him and nobody else.
 - b. The authority of God will be with him.
 - c. Zerubbabel would be God's instrument carrying God's authority and what he said or did would be considered to come from God.

4. What happens in Ezra 5:2? _____

5. What happened in Ezra 5:3-4?
 - a. Everything was good and easy. After all, Zerubbabel is God's signet ring and God is shaking the Earth and overthrowing other kings, right?
 - b. The governor of Trans-Euphrates and some other folks questioned them about what they were doing.
 - c. They asked for the names of the people who were building the temple. Would you have given them your name?

6. What does Ezra 5:5 tell us about the situation? _____

7. What was the content of the letter that was sent to King Darius, according to Ezra 5:6-17?
 - a. Ummmmm...I'm going to tell!
 - b. They called the God of Israel "the great God."
 - c. The response of God's people to their questions...which showed an amazing understanding of why the temple had been destroyed and the power of God and the importance of their obedience and faithfulness.
 - d. A clear explanation by the people of God of the permission (and commission) that they received from King Cyrus and a request to search the archives and confirm their story.

8. What was the response, according to Ezra 6:1-12?
 - a. They found the decree and the governor was instructed not to interfere.
 - b. Darius declared that the governor should pay for their expenses, decrees a death sentence for those who would interfere with God's people, and declares war on any king or people who would destroy the temple

9. How is this outcome different from what Israel has experienced in the past? _____
How does this relate to Wednesday's Haggai Bible Study? _____
Are you choosing this sort of blessing by choosing obedience to God? _____