

NEWS HEADLINES    *The Date is 536 BC*

**“Babylon beaten in battle by King Cyrus”    “Some Jews still living in Babylon.”**  
**“Cyrus sends 50,000 Jews home to rebuild their badly damaged Temple”**  
**“The Jews lay the foundation for a new Temple”**  
**“17 years have passed and still only the foundations are laid”**

These could well have been the newspaper headlines of that day! The Jews had spent 70 years in exile in Babylon which is now Iraq; this was prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 25v11 and 29v10).

*And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment and the nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.*

*For thus says the Lord that after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you and perform My good word toward you in causing you to return to this place.*

In 536 BC Zerubbabel, a descendant of David and from the Royal Household of Judah led some 50,000 Jews from Babylon back to the Holy Land. Many of these captives had been born in Babylon and not all the captives wanted to return anyway. In the seventy years of captivity many Jews had built prosperous businesses, nice houses and so preferred to remain in a foreign land. Those whose hearts were still mindful of God’s covenant and listened to the prophetic messages of Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel and others longed to return to their roots and see Jerusalem again.

They arrived back to Jerusalem and after a short while they began to settle.

Haggai and Zechariah were prophets that God used at that time to remind Israel that the Temple which had been destroyed by king Nebuchadnezzar, had to be rebuilt and that they were lax in their commitment to that task. He was very straight and to the point in his message to the Jews and he doesn’t mince his words to them and he clearly shows the consequence of disobedience, this is what he said;

Haggai 1v4-6

*Is it time for you to dwell in your ceiled houses and this house lie waste? Thus says the Lord of hosts consider your ways. You have sown much and bring in little, you eat but you have not enough, you drink but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves but there is none warm; and he who earns wages earns wages to put it into a bag with holes.*

On the return to Jerusalem the Jew’s first thought was to build panelled houses for themselves. These were a new type of build made of cedar wood instead of the stone and mud build they had used in the Holy Land up to now. They had been taught how to cut the trees into panels and to line the ceilings and paint them with bright colours. Their thoughts were to get themselves comfortable and then attend to the House of God later. But they forgot the house of God having only laid the foundations which were left untouched for 17 years. As most of the worship of God for the Jew was done in the Temple and the captivity of 70 years was a punishment for rebellion and disobedience no doubt their worship of God suffered too.

**Putting God first**

Clearly there were still undivided loyalties among the Jews at this time. According to God's promise the Jews were a chosen people unto God; He promised them the land of Canaan, He laid down conditions that would guarantee them a successful and prosperous life under a covenant. He had ordered them to build a Temple where He promised His Name would be *for ever and they could meet Him there*. As we know the Jews rejected all this and preferred to go their own way causing God to punish them with 70 years exile from their beloved Jerusalem. Now some wanted to stay in Babylon and those who returned put their own interests before God's. All through the Old Testament Israel disobeyed God by making friends with the heathen, inter-marring and worshiping their gods. But God wanted Israel for Himself, He had great things planned for them but because some became a part of Babylon's culture and would not listen to the Prophets they missed it all. Paul gives good reasons why compromise with the unrighteous is very unwise indeed.

The application here is that we will never prosper spiritually, in our thinking or in our finances unless we serve God first, unless we seek his kingdom and its righteousness first (Matt 6:33). God has set in motion divine spiritual principles of finance, first modelled by Abraham during his encounter with Melchidezek before the law was given. God even asks us to test these principles out for ourselves (Mal 3:10) and if we do He promises to rebuke the devourer on our behalf. It is as we humble ourselves, our ambitions and ideas before Him that He will raise us up in due season.

**2. Corinthians 6 v 14 -18.**

*Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers for what fellowship has Righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion has light with darkness? Or what concord has Christ with Belial or what part has he who believes with an infidel?*

Verse 14 starts: *Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers*. A scripture used many times encouraging courting couples to marry a fellow Christian and not one who is unrighteous, but are we sure we are not caught up with our own ideas, our own ambitions at the expense of what God wants for our lives or what He wants for His church becoming unequal in loyalty, devotion and love. Are we dabbling in unrighteousness which has no fellowship with Righteousness? There are only two fellowships in the world today and only two, Righteousness and unrighteousness we all belong to one or the other we cannot belong to both and claim to be a Christian. Paul makes it very clear we must choose one or the other. He asks *what communion has light with darkness. What part has he who believes with an infidel?* Those who claim to be Christians should separate themselves from the world and all the world stands for and it is a separation and not isolation. *What concord has Christ with Belial?* Concord means "harmony or agreement or established peaceful relations". Belial is another name for Satan. It would be unheard of to think that God has harmony with Satan. If we belong to Jesus we have no agreement or peaceful relations with the world or Satan either who walks the earth seeking whom he may devour. *What agreement has the Temple of God with idols? Do not compromise.* Anything we put before God is an idol and God and idols cannot mix.

Our role as Christians is to dwell in the world but to not be tarnished by the ways of the world. We are co-workers with Jesus in spreading the gospel here on earth among all peoples. We are his mouth piece. It is up to us as Christians to fulfil this mandate. If we do not do it in our communities in our lifetime then the job will not get done. As ambassadors of the Kingdom, we take the Kingdom to all realms of society. When heaven can reach earth in those places through us then true freedom can manifest. That is what Jesus did and he was mocked for keeping company with tax

collectors and with prostitutes. However, and it is a big however, if we remain entangled with the temptations of the world we will never be able to do this work. We will lose our cutting edge and we will be led into sin if we enter questionable places. Before we can do this we must have allowed God to deal with our past sin, past sinful nature and past temptations. Then we can be a cutting edge in the more depraved areas of our society.

Today there is no Jewish Temple of bricks and mortar as there was in the days of the Old Testament but Paul tells us in 2. Corinthians 6 v 16 that we are the Temple of the Living God, *as God has said* made possible by the Cross.

### 2. Corinthians 6 v 16

*And what agreement has the Temple of God with idols? For you are the Temple of the Living God as God has said, I will dwell in them and walk in them and I will be their God and they shall be My people.*

Just think, the believer in Christ is the Sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, is He embarrassed living in you or I? Dose the Spirit clash with idols we hold dear?

2 Corinthians 6 v 17 screams out to us:

*Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate says the Lord and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you.*

Even God Himself has declared we are His Temple and He says He will dwell in us and walk in us and will be our God and we shall be His people. We must therefore live our lives and behave so that others can see and feel the Holy Spirit working in our lives to the glory of God. There has got to be a difference in the life of a Christian and the life of the unrighteous.

### **Separation from the World**

So if we are not separate from the world and we do not set ourselves apart from all the world is and dose, and that means in our business life, our social life, our daily living and not just on Sundays, God will not receive us. This is confirmed in the first Chapter of Haggai verse 2 of our Haggai study. From the beginning God called Israel "His people" but there were times when Israel tested God's patience so much He called them "this people" or "your people" when talking to Moses for instance. Here in verse 2 God uses "this people" used in a note of derision as He compares the houses Israel lived in and the fact that apart from the foundation the Temple had not been touched for 17 years.

### Haggai chapter 1 v 5

The Lord said: *Consider your ways' You have sown much and bring in little, you eat but you have not enough; you drink but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves but there is none warm, and he who earn wages earns wages to put into a bag with holes.*

If ever a verse of Scripture highlights a lack of progress today even after much work and effort this one dose. We can all identify today with what the Holy Spirit is saying. Don't we all recognise that our labour, our income, our salaries and our investments do not rise to our expectations as it did even a generation ago? Much of the world is in serious poverty, in poorer countries young children are dying at a rate of hundreds a day. In the richer countries those who can afford to invest and save

are *putting their money in bags with holes*; they plan to save but events beyond their control causes them to lose their investments and their savings.

My wife and I were given a very small number of shares and we told a close friend of ours that in the middle of the present financial crisis we had lost £230 in about 3 weeks. He said he had lost £40,000 in the same period! *Bags with holes!* Senior men and women with degrees and lots of experience are now joining queues side by side with young people half their age for hand-outs. Young men and women have spent years in Universities and are coming out with no job to go to but have massive University fees to pay off if ever they do get work! There is no trust in Governments, banks, world leaders or one another. Haggai's prophecy to Israel was written for us in our time too!

Could this be because we have neglected the Temple of the living God? If we are the Temple of God as He said we are have we put our "house" before the Lord and His work, do we concentrate on our own interests and give God second place, does our Bible reading and our prayer life take second place to our own interests? If so we can expect a scanty harvest and weak bodily health. Our investments will give poor results and may be lost altogether, we will work hard for little return, so we will get second jobs to catch up... but we never do. Many families are forced to get two and three jobs to make ends meet.

God says *consider your ways*. Take stock, stop and take note and change.

As I was reading through Haggai for this study I was sent this Prophecy by Mr. Paul Slennett a Christian Businessman who owns three Bible Shops on the East coast of the UK;

*My children, the alarm bells are sounding all over Europe, for judgment is being spoken out over the nations. Over your nation, Great Britain, a mighty earthquake is about to occur, an earthquake that will swallow up the whole City. Whole companies and city institutions will collapse in this earthquake, some never to rise again.*

*My judgment that has been withheld for so long must now be unleashed on your nation in order that my church repent and lead this nation in repentance, for I am a righteous and Holy God, just in all my ways, a God who longs to show mercy, but one who will no longer tolerate the unrighteousness of my dear church. It is out of love that I visit this nation with judgment-you must know that this must always be the case. My children, repent now before it is too late for already the day of my return draws near and you must not be found wanting, like the virgins who did not fill their lamps with oil; but awake my children and be my watchmen, and speak with a prophetic voice of the judgment that is about to come on the nations.*

*If you repent and turn from your wicked ways, I will visit your nation Great Britain once again not with judgement but revival power and I will protect you from all the strategy of the enemy.*

*With regard to Europe, come out of her my dear children for she will align herself with the Beast and the False Prophet who will arise and appear for just a short while. My children take heart for I am with you always. Do not give up but pray without ceasing and see the salvation of your God.*

We recognise that the in city of London, the heart of Britain's banking system where billions of pounds worth of financial transactions take place every day has, in the past few years experienced an "earthquake" where some banks with lots of investors' money have collapsed. At the beginning

of this New Year of 2012, UK's top five banks are set to rake in £35 billion profit while many companies are folding and going out of business by the day for lack of support from their Bank. I was shocked to hear the major News Programs in recent days are calling the collapse of the money markets an "earthquake" using the same word as that in God's prophecy.

At the time of writing the situation is very bad indeed. Do you see the confirmation of the Lord's prophecy or do we think its coincidence? Or if we think it might be for us do we ignore it just like Israel did.

This prophecy from Mr Paul Slennett is so timely because even as I write, the Leaders of the European Union are desperate to find answers to their massive debt problems. They are trying to support smaller nations who owe vast sums of money to the bigger nations from going bankrupt which will ruin the chances of any repayment of the crippling loans owed. These leaders have spent much time and travel, many sleepless nights and many meetings trying to stop their countries record unemployment figures. They try to get their stagnant economies going again but the result is the bank manager, the store director, the solicitor, the shop keeper and the road sweeper all brought down to the same level, standing side by side in the hand-out queue. And God in His love for His creation sends His word written in the prophecy above to warn us of our rebellious ways and asks us to return to Him with unceasing prayer.

God spoke very similar words to a backsliding nation called the Children of Israel in the Old Testament, and they ignored it. When God's patience ran out and His judgment came the Children of Israel then complained to God about His so called "injustice". But they took God for granted they did not believe He would do what He said He would do. What are you saying about this prophecy, do you believe it? Are you saying "Paul Slennett? I've never heard of him, I have heard things like that before? Yeah things are bad but I am trying to save my business, or I am doing my best to keep house and home together I don't have time just now"... **Building our own houses, putting money into bags with holes!**

Jesus says to us all "*Consider your ways*"

#### Haggai Chapter 2 v 6-7

*For thus says the Lord God of hosts, yet once it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations and the desire of all nations shall come and I will fill this house with glory says the Lord.*

Here we read about the voice of God speaking that shakes the heavens; a quick trip to Hebrews 12 v 25 to remind us of the first time He spoke giving the Law from Mt Sinai and the earth was shaken.

#### Hebrews 12 v 25 confirms what Haggai says.

*See that you refuse not Him Who speaks, for if they escape not who refused Him Who spoke on earth, much more shall not we escape if we turn away from Him Who speaks from heaven. Whose voice then shook the earth but now He has promised saying yet once more I shall not only shake the earth but the Heaven also.*

Just a little confusing in the Old English, let's borrow from the Amplified Bible;

*So see to it that you do not reject Him or refuse to listen to and heed Him Who is speaking to you now. For if the Israelites did not escape when they refused to listen and heed Him Who warned and divinely instructed them here on earth, revealing with heavenly warnings His will, how much less shall we escape if we reject and turn our backs on Him Who cautions and admonishes us from heaven? Then, at Mount Sinai His voice shook the earth; but now He has given a promise, yet once more I will shake and make tremble not only the earth but also the heavens.*

### **How about reading Paul Slennett's prophecy again!**

So, the Lord will for the second time shake the earth but this time the heavens as well. We understand this second shaking prophecy is unfulfilled waiting for the *desire of all nations* to come. The word 'desire' is the object of the desire which is not of things so it must refer to Him who can and will satisfy the desire of all the nations. In that day of fulfilment there will be a universal longing for peace, for deliverance and safety which only the Lord can bring and many will look to Him *the desire of all nations* as He shakes the earth and the heavens to get the world's attention.

But before that happens, the world will be deceived into thinking that the Antichrist can meet that universal desire. I believe the financial, economic and social conditions of most of the world will not be remedied by the leaders of Europe or anyone else but they may well contribute to further unrest, but the stage will be set for one man, backed by Satan to emerge with an answer to the problem. He will be 'worshipped' for his knowledge and skill. He will claim to be God and Christ combined and according to the Bible there will be a period of peace and safety but Antichrist is not that *desire of all nations*, sudden destruction will come.

### Verse 3 God asks:

*Who is left among you who saw this house in her first glory? And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?*

There were some who returned from captivity in Babylon who were old enough to remember the splendour of Solomon's Temple. Many stories were told around the supper table whilst in captivity about the way Solomon's Temple was built, where the wood came from, how the gold and the silver was beaten into shape, how the precious stones were added to the gold covered pillars, the skilled men hammering out shapes of Pomegranates and Figs and all manner of flowers into the gold coverings of the walls and pillars; The beauty of the drapery, the weaving of the curtains made by women who were committed to Excellence. One can visualise the children's faces as they let their imaginations run wild. Yes there was a desire for Excellence and perfection in those days because the Temple was Jehovah's house. Now, with an attitude of "my house first" and "let me get my business up and running" and "God later", causing God once again through His Prophet Haggai to reprimand them for their sin of idolatry, God asked them to compare what the fathers had remembered and the youth of what they had been told about the first Temple to what they were seeing now. This is what sin, rebellion and disobedience had done to the house of God. God said *the comparison of it is as nothing.*

Can we as the Temple of the Living God, claim to be as Holy in God's eyes as we were even a few years ago. Is our zealotness as great as it was when we first gave our hearts to Jesus? Do we take God's Temple to places He would rather not go? Do we abuse God's Temple and offend Him, do we always assume the Holy Spirit is in residence when we mix with others whose actions and conversations are not in keeping with the Word of God.

In our study of Ezekiel we noted that the Children of Israel, even under the leadership of the Priests were so disobedient and rebellious to God that the Holy Spirit removed Himself from the Temple altogether.

We noted earlier God said we are the **Temple of Living God as God has said. I will dwell in them and walk in them and I will be their God and they shall be My people.** Will He dwell in us when we take Him to dubious places or walk with us when our paths and His are not in fellowship?

In the Western World our churches are in desperate need of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Salvations and Healings are not seen as they were in my younger days, our nation needs revival, our Parliament needs Godly men and women to lead us in righteousness and truth, but their example today leaves a lot to be desired. Yet! In my lifetime we as a nation were called to prayer when the men who led us wanted the nations support in asking divine guidance.

God asks us to compare the former condition of His Temple to the one He is expected to live in now. What do you think? Is there room for improvement in your life, in my life, in your church in mine?

#### Haggai 2v8

*The silver is mine and the gold is mine says the Lord of Hosts.*

The Lord slips this line in-between verse 7 and 9 to remind the people that this new Temple may not be as ostentatious as Solomon's Temple which had much silver and gold, fine carvings in gold and silver on the walls and pillars, and this new Temple was very austere and they were grieved over this. So God was telling Israel that He owned all the gold and silver anyway and could fill the Temple with such things if He wanted to, but the Prophet was telling them the Glory of the Temple was not in silver or gold but in His Spirit dwelling in that Holy Place. God's plan was to encourage the people not to set their eyes on the glitter of the Temple but instead on the Spirit of God dwelling with them, and in us working mightily.

#### Verse 9

*The Glory of this latter House shall be greater than of the former, says the Lord of Hosts; and in this place will I give peace says the Lord of Hosts.*

Ezekiel chapters 40 through to 48 describe the future Millennial Temple which will be built in Jerusalem at a time in the future. This will be the last Temple to be built and according to Haggai will be greater than all the others because the Glory of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit will dwell there and from that throne the God Head will rule the earth. All wars will cease, no more dictators, European Unions, terrorists, sickness, pain or anything else that Satan has afflicted upon us, and all will be peaceful.

#### Verse 11

*Thus says the Lord of Hosts; Ask now the Priests concerning the Law saying; If one bare holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat shall it be holy? And the Priests answered and said No.*

In this new Temple the Priests were commanded of the Lord to again perform their Temple duties first given to Moses and Aaron in Leviticus.

#### Leviticus Chapter 6 verse 26 to 30

*The Priest who offers it for sin shall eat it in the Holy Place; in the Holy Place shall it be eaten in the court of the Tabernacle of the congregation. 27. Whatsoever shall touch the flesh thereof shall*

*be Holy and when there is a sprinkled of the blood thereof upon any garment, you shall wash that whereon it was sprinkled in the Holy Place 28. But the earthen vessel wherein it is sodden shall be broken and if it be sodden in a brazen pot it shall be both scoured and rinsed in water. 29 All males among the Priests shall eat thereof; it is most holy. 30. And no Sin Offering, whereof any of the blood is brought into the Tabernacle of the congregation to reconcile withal in the Holy Place, shall be eaten; it shall be burnt in the fire.*

This explains what was done with the flesh of the sacrifices. The fat was wholly burned and the flesh eaten by the Priests. Eating of the flesh by the Priests signified acceptance by God of the person making the offering and establishing again communion between them and their God. The flesh of the Sin Offering was considered most holy because it represented Christ who in due time would take our sins upon Himself on the Cross to redeem us back to God the Father, (Hebrews 2. v 8, 9, 10. Hebrews 9 v 14 to 28) everything that touched the sin offering was regarded as Holy which was a symbol of the fact that whoever was touched by Christ was made whole and cleaned from his sins. We note that should the garment of the Priest who carries the flesh of the Sin Offering be splashed with the blood of the offering the garment must be washed clean. The vessels that carried the flesh were to be broken and destroyed and should the vessel be of metal it was to be scoured clean and washed with water. Nothing, but nothing was to contaminate the flesh of the Sin Offering because it was symbolic of the Body of Christ who was made a sacrifice on the Cross for the sins of the world. This Sin Offering could not be condemned by anyone for not being pure and Holy and throw doubt on the pure and complete sacrifice of Christ who was sinless and Holy and who took on himself the sins of the people.

This practice of the Sin Offering and the many other offerings required of the Lord by Israel was to show Israel, and the heathen, the importance of purity, commitment, the holiness and obedience from the people who were chosen to be His people here on earth, and to usher in the Supreme Sacrifice Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God who would take away the sins of the world.

All this seemingly unnecessary preparation of these offerings was to show us all that only a perfect sinless and Holy sacrifice would be accepted by God if He were to forgive sin. If Israel were to be lax in the preparation, all the hosts of hell led by Satan himself would have cause to condemn and laugh at Israel's attempt to claim forgiveness of their sins from a faulty Sacrifice and would ultimately bring doubt on what Christ was to do at the Cross later and may even make the work on the Cross null and void.

The Priest of the Temple knew the Law and also knew the meaning of the strict preparations they carried out on behalf of the congregation,

Chapter 2 v 13 Haggai asks the Priests a question.

*Then said Haggai, if one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the Priests answered and said. It shall be unclean.*

The Priests agreed with the Prophet that if any did carry meat in their garments and their garments brushed against other unholy things they would make the Holy meat unclean or should the Holy meat touch or brush against a dead body that would also make the Sin Offering unclean and that would require a full ceremonial cleansing to be carried out before the Priestly work could continue, and that cleansing wasn't a quick rinse in bucket of water.

Verse 14.

*Then Haggai answered and said. So is this people, and so is this nation before me says the Lord and so is the work of their hands and that which they offer is unclean.15. And now I pray you consider from this day and upward from before a stone is laid upon a stone in the Temple of the Lord;*

*16. Since those days were when one came to an heap of twenty measures, and there were but ten; when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels of the press, there were but twenty. I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet you turned not to me, says the Lord.*

These verses show the curse that was upon Israel for their disobedience to God's call, He had to tell them to consider their ways and repent of their independence before God would allow them to build the Temple because the Temple had to be built with clean hands and a pure Holy heart

Consider all of the fine detail that God gave to King Solomon when the original temple was built; consider how carefully every detail was carried out; consider the extravagant offerings and the extravagant worship and then consider how breath-taking it must have been when the glory of God, His wonderful presence, swept through the temple. If the latter house was to reflect more glory than the former, consider how important it would have been for them to build with an uncompromised heart; how important it would have been to give God's work the very best they could. And let's quietly consider in our hearts if we really are willing to pay the price to see revival in our land in our generation. A Messianic Bible teacher once said this: "when the pattern is right then the glory will fall". Compromise in our hearts defiles our personal temple and can have a wider effect in the communities we inhabit in our own generation just as it did in the days of Haggai.

But God said the work of their hands and their offerings were unclean and therefore unacceptable. We are the Temple of the Lord so we must be free from contamination with the world and just as the offering was defiled if it came in contact with sin, our bodies, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, must also be clean and pure and fit for the presents of God. The Israelites were making offerings to God out of habit believing their offerings were received of God, but He said they were unclean! Do we do the same every Sunday, we sing our songs of praise but think of work the next day, and we listen half-heartedly to the message but have other things on our mind. Or, dare I say harbour sin in our hearts? Do we come away from the service believing our offering to God has been accepted? Do we worship Him in Spirit and in Truth? Would God say of our worship offering or our daily walk with Him; *So is this people, and so is this nation before me says the Lord and so is the work of their hands and that which they offer is unclean.* What makes us think we are any better than Israel?

We have looked at the devastation of our own empires, the collapse of our own financial 'temples' the crumbling of the systems that we have put so much faith in. The work of our hands our labours, our financial planning, our businesses, even our marriages and the bringing up of our children are all contaminated by sin. And the Lord says consider your ways.

Verse 16

*Since those days were, when one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten; when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.*

Those days concern the entirety of Israel's last 16 years since they had laid the foundation which is a long time to be out of God's will and purpose. Their Spiritual condition greatly affected their natural condition. Giving God second place in their lives brought God's curse upon them which reduced their sowing, their reaping, and their labour harvest by half.

#### Verse 17

*I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet you turned not unto Me says the Lord.*

My guess is that they thought that the man-hours, money, thought and planning that went into last year's farming which produced very poor returns needed extra effort, more money and longer hours this year to make up the difference. Businessmen, Financial Institutions even Politicians today think the same thing but God has blasted the economy with mildew and with hail, even promised an "earthquake that will swallow up the whole city". We are, as I write in the middle of such a judgement from God.

#### Verse 18

*Consider now this day and upward from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month even from the day that the foundation of the Lord's Temple was laid, consider it.*

The twenty fourth day of the month of Sivan (about May/June in our calendar) the Lord wanted Israel to take note that He would reverse their present loss and would bless and multiply their labours and increase their harvest. He wanted them to notice the very day the difference occurred.

In future days and years Israel would look back to this date and remember God's promise and fulfilment of that promise and take note that it was their obedience to Him that brought about such blessing, such success and prosperity. With proper obedience to the Lord, a sincere look at our lives and our behaviour, a determination to put Him on the throne of our hearts, which is His rightful place will lift the curse on our nations and allow God to bless us as He did Israel.

Pastors and Spiritual Leaders take encouragement from Haggai and preach God's Word to your congregations, lead them, don't push them, good Shepard's lead their sheep. Help them to consider their ways and together and in humility and sincere prayerfulness call on our Lord to forgive us in the UK of the sin of putting other things before God.

God bless you all.

*I am grateful to Graham Towse for his reading, checking and input to these studies.*