

b. Month

It was the month Elul - part of August and September (Hag.1:1)

c. Day

It was the first day of the month (Hag. 1:1)

This was the day of the feast of the new moon. On this day special sacrifice was offered to the Lord and there was a religious meeting held at the temple (Isa. 1:13). Thus on this day the people would have been susceptible to Haggai's message about rebuilding the temple inasmuch as on such a day they would have been painfully and doubly conscious that the temple was still lying in ruins.

Note: The time of Haggai's first message was Aug. 29, 520 B.C. The message that Haggai delivered on that date was exactly the message that the people needed to hear at that time.

2. Recipients of the Message (Hag. 1:1)

a. Zerubbabel (Sheshbazzar was his Chaldean name)

(1) His lineage

(a) His father

i. Shealtiel (Hag. 1:1)

Shealtiel (שְׁאֲלִיִּיל) is written this way in Hag.2:23; I Chron. 3:17, Ezra 3:2, and Neh. 12:1 whereas in Hag. 1:12 and 14 and 2:2 it is contracted into Shaltiel (שְׁאֲלִיִּיל).

ii. Pedaiah (I Chron. 3:19)

(b) His grandfather through Shealtiel

i. Assir (I Chron. 3:17)

If Assir is a descriptive word meaning "captive," then Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) would be Zerubbabel's grandfather through Shealtiel.

ii. Neri (Luke 3:27)

(c) Explanation of the apparent contradictions

Jeremiah predicted that no man of the seed of Johoiachin would sit upon the throne of David and rule in Judah (Jer. 22:30). This prediction was fulfilled. Jehoiachin had two sons - Zedekiah (I Chron. 3:16 -not the Zedekiah who was the last king of Judah and who was Jehoiachin's uncle and Johoiakim's brother) and Assir (I Chron. 3:17). Neither of these sons had any sons of their own but Assir had a daughter. She married Neri who belonged to the family of David which was part of the tribe of Judah, her father's tribe, according to the law of the heiress in Num. 27:8

and whose name was spelled
and who spells his name
שְׁאֲלִיִּיל - I Chron. 3:15