

d. Promptness of the obedience (Hag. 1:14b,15)

The people obeyed the Lord immediately. The proof of this is that the people began to rebuild the temple on the 24th day of the 6th month of the second year of Darius I, King of Persia, i.e. on Sept. 21, 520 B.C. only 23 days after Haggai had delivered the Lord's message to them. During those 23 days the people got the building material for the temple, summoned the workmen from all the neighborhood and organized the work force, and made all other necessary preparations for the rebuilding of the temple. All that was done in just a little over three weeks! Thus it is evident that the obedience of the people was prompt.

Note: In some versions such as the Septuagint and Vulgate, verse 15 is combined with 2:1 and is considered to be the first part of that verse. But this division is incorrect because the chronological statements in verse 15 and 2:1 are irreconcilable with one another. Therefore, verse 15 is to remain closely connected to verse 14, and is to be regarded as the last clause of it. However, there are some modern scholars who say that since the usual order of year - month - day is used when reference is made to the Kingship of Darius I, that the words "in the second year of Darius, the king" in verse 15 should go with 2:1 and be considered the first part of that verse, but the evidence for such a division is insufficient.

B. Second Message (Hag. 2:1-9)

1. Time of the Message (Hag. 1:15b, 2:1)

a. Year

It was the second year of Darius, the King (Hag. 1:15b). This would be 520 B.C.

b. Month

It was the seventh month - Tishri - which covers part of September and October (Hag. 2:1)

c. Day

It was the 21st day of the month (Hag. 2:1)

This was the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:34) when it was the custom to celebrate the ingathering of the harvest. This was usually a very joyful time, but on this occasion, the harvest was scanty, and there was no temple in whose courts the people might assemble to offer their thank-offerings to the Lord. Although the work on the temple had been going on for about 3½ wks., it was evident that it was going to be very inferior to Solomon's temple. Thus everything on this day tended to make them contrast the present with the past.

Note: The 21st day of Tishri is the same as October 17 on our calendar.