

b. Month

It was the ninth month - Kislev - which covers part of November and December (Hag. 2:10a).

c. Day

It was the 24th day of the month (Hag. 2:10a).

This was exactly three months after the work on the temple began (cf. Hag. 1:15), and two months after Haggai's previous message (cf. Hag. 2:1). The sowing of the winter crops, that began after the feast of tabernacles, was finished and the autumn rain (early rain) had set in so that in the abundant fall of that rain they might discern a trace of the Lord's blessing.

Note: The 24th day of Kislev is the same as December 18 on our calendar.

2. Source of the Message

The message came from the Lord (Hag. 2:10b, 11,17).

3. Content of the Message (Hag. 2:11-19)

- a. The Lord impressed upon His people that they were morally unclean in His sight before they began to do the work He wanted them to do, namely, to rebuild the temple, and that their moral uncleanness caused everything they produced with their hands and the sacrifices offered to Him to be unclean as well. (Hag. 2:11-14).

The Lord impressed this on His people in the following way. He told them to go to the priests and ask them two questions about the Mosaic law (Hag. 2:11). The first question was:

If a person carried "holy flesh" or meat in the "skirt" or fold of his garment, and the "skirt" or fold of his garment touched some bread, stew, wine, oil, or other food, would that which the "skirt" or fold of his garment touched become holy? (Hag. 2:11a)

The priests answer to the question was "no." (Hag. 2:11b cf. Lev.6:27). The principle brought out by this question is that holiness is not communicable. The second question was:

If a person who had become ceremonially unclean by touching a dead body touched some bread, stew, wine, oil or other food, would that which he touched become unclean? (Hag. 2:13a)

The priests' answer to this question was:

Yes, it would become unclean (Hag. 2:13b cf. Num. 19:22)