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Dear Associates and Friends,

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“[The Book of Haggai](#)” is the article for March 2014. This small 2-chapter, 38 verse book of the Bible is the 10th of the Twelve Minor Prophets. Haggai is on one hand remarkably precise in being dated with corresponding non-biblical dates, and at the same time it has chronological problems. This is because the dating takes place in relation to the reign of King Darius:

“In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of YHWH by Haggai the prophet ...”

• **Haggai 1:1**

First, there is Darius the Mede (Daniel 5:31, 11:1), “**the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes**” (Daniel 9:1). He cast Daniel into the lions’ den at the urging of Daniel’s enemies. Darius the Mede in the time of Daniel is **NOT** the Darius of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai and Zechariah.

Darius the Persian (Ezra 4:5, 24; 6:14; Nehemiah 12:22), is the Darius of Haggai and Zechariah. He is also the Darius of history who fought Greece at the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC.

Then the sequence of Persian kings becomes muddled. Some commentators think the Darius of Nehemiah 12:22 was Darius II, the second Persian king. It is also possible he may have been a governor or a satrap, yet still called a king.

The Darius of Haggai and Zechariah was a usurper who seized power from another Persian king who was himself likely a usurper. He spent much of his time quelling rebellion throughout his realm — except in the land of Judah. Haggai uses the phrase “**YHWH of hosts**” 14 times in 38 verses, perhaps indicating there is a great deal of strife going on in the world and that God is with them. It is interesting that Zerubbabel is designated as a governor (Haggai 1:1, 14, 2:2, 21), yet as a royal descendant of King David, he could have ruled as the legitimate king of Judah. Interestingly, this legitimate potential king faithfully served a possible illegitimate King of Persia.

Haggai was probably the first of the post-exilic prophets and was contemporary with Zechariah (Ezra 5:1; 6:14). This indicates that the two prophets likely complement each other, which indeed they do. And Haggai does indeed correspond with Zechariah chapters 1–8 (but not chapters 9–14).

A Temple of God in Jerusalem will be built. It will be built at an unknown place and at an unknown time — unknown to us at present. Some important prophecies in the Book of Haggai have not been fulfilled, so they must occur in the future. Because the prophecies relate to other prophetic events indicated elsewhere in Scripture, the rebuilding of a Temple would be a major prophetic milestone. Such a milestone could be as far as a decade away. This is disappointing to me and probably to you also. I want identifiable prophetic events to start happening now! And then it takes time for those events to have an impact and influence on the prosperity of the world.

Building the Temple

One major event would be the laying of the cornerstone of a Temple, just as Haggai predicts. More than one group of religious Jews in Israel have sought to place such a cornerstone on the Haram esh-Sharif, but they have been prevented from doing so. It is highly likely the prophecies of Haggai are in the minds of those Jews and Gentiles who desire to perform such an act. They properly desire the blessings that God promises for the His people, a prosperity that will benefit Jews, Israelites, and strangers alike.

What happens next? We must wait for God to act. Only He can make the necessary “living water” for the next Temple come forth. Without “living water” there can be no Temple, although some religious people will tell you different. “We can pipe water in!” some may say. This might satisfy many, maybe even you and me, but our wants do not count. God’s requirements must be satisfied.

God requires that the location of the near-future Temple must be within a 2,000 cubit (3,000 feet, a bit over ½ a mile) radius of the original Temple site at the Gihon.¹ This area was established in the 1st century, and Jesus indicated it was the right and responsibility of the Sanhedrin to make such decisions (Matthew 23:1–3). God will go along with their decision, unless He changes His mind, which no one can foretell.

I doubt the next Temple will be built above the Gihon Springs. That piece of land will likely be used for other things related to King David. Hopefully soon, God will open up a large source of living water within the permitted area of Jerusalem to satisfy the sacrificial water requirements and set the stage for the Temple construction. Perhaps that site will be on the Mount of Olives, perhaps somewhere else. It will certainly not be on the Haram esh-Sharif. The natural flow of water will be obvious to everyone when it happens, but the import of that event will be understood by only a few, such as you and others, who understand the significance of the true site of the Jerusalem Temples in the past. The rest of the world will need to study the facts. Here is a possible sequence of events:

(1) Scholars begin to accept that no Temple was ever on the Haram esh-Sharif where the Dome of the Rock is located. (2) Some event, probably a seismic event, will cause water to flow copiously within the 2000 cubit limit of the original site of the Temple. (3) The site must be approved by whatever Sanhedrin organization exists at the time. The site must be secured and purchased, as King David did.² (4) The foundation platform must be leveled and made able to support the weight of the structure. (5) An altar must be established and, maybe, sacrifices begin. (6) The foundation stone must be established. (7) Construction will commence and last several months or years while God begins to bless His people as Haggai says. (8) The Temple is completed and dedicated.

Some of these events such as (2) and (3) may differ in sequence, but all these events must occur. Also, there must be an Elijah to come and a different Zerubbabel-like person who will assist in the process. These will likely be the two witnesses.

Thank You

We all want to be around when identifiable prophesied events begin to happen. I think it is important for ASK to be around, whether or not I am around when things start happening. Thank you all for your generosity over the past 12 years since Dr. Martin died. The legacy of research that he has left us has served us all well, and will continue to do so as we expand upon his work and we get nearer to Christ’s return. Our work is not done and we need your continued financial support, especially from those who have benefitted from ASK, but never contributed before. Enjoy Dr. Martin’s presentation on “The Book of Haggai.”

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¹ This was “a sabbath day’s journey” (Acts 1:12). Consider Dr. Martin’s *The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot*, p. 459, note 681:

“The Jewish authorities in the first century chose the figure of 2000 cubits (3000 feet) because of the reference to the 2000-cubit mentioned in Joshua 3:4 that separated the Israelites from the Ark of the Covenant. The accounts in the earliest parts of the Talmuds known as the Mishnah show the use of these 2000 cubits in early Jewish interpretation (Rosh ha-Shanah 2:5, see also Sanhedrin 1:5 and Shebu’oth 2:2 for the authority of the Sanhedrin [the Supreme Court] of the Jews to set the limits of the three camps). As in the case of the Ark in the time of Joshua, the distance was determined ‘by measure’ (Joshua 3:4). The distance was determined by walking, not by measuring the distance of 2000 cubits from the Holy of Holies as a bird would fly.”

The distance was measured from the threshold of the Holy of Holies (*Temples*, p. 459, note 682).

² It cannot be appropriated through either government action or by conquest. Remember, it was important for King David to fairly purchase the site for the Temple which Solomon built (2 Samuel 24:24–25).