



The Questions God Asks

Bible Study Series – Part IV

September 2020

The Questions God Asks

Where are you? (Genesis 3)

What is that in your hand? (Exodus 4)

What are you doing here? (1 Kings 19)

**Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in
your paneled houses, and this temple to
lie in ruins? (Haggai 1)**

Haggai 1:1-15

- ¹ In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,
- ² “Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the Lord’s house should be built.” ’ ”
- ³ Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying,
- ⁴ “*Is it* time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple *to lie* in ruins?”
- ⁵ Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider your ways!

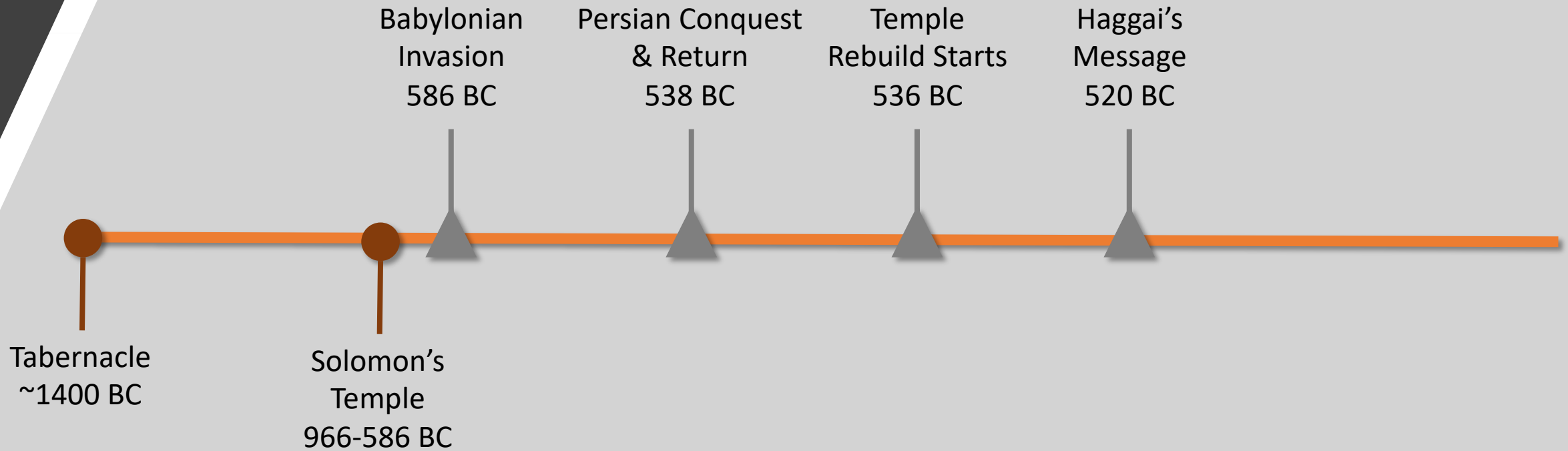
Haggai 1:1-15

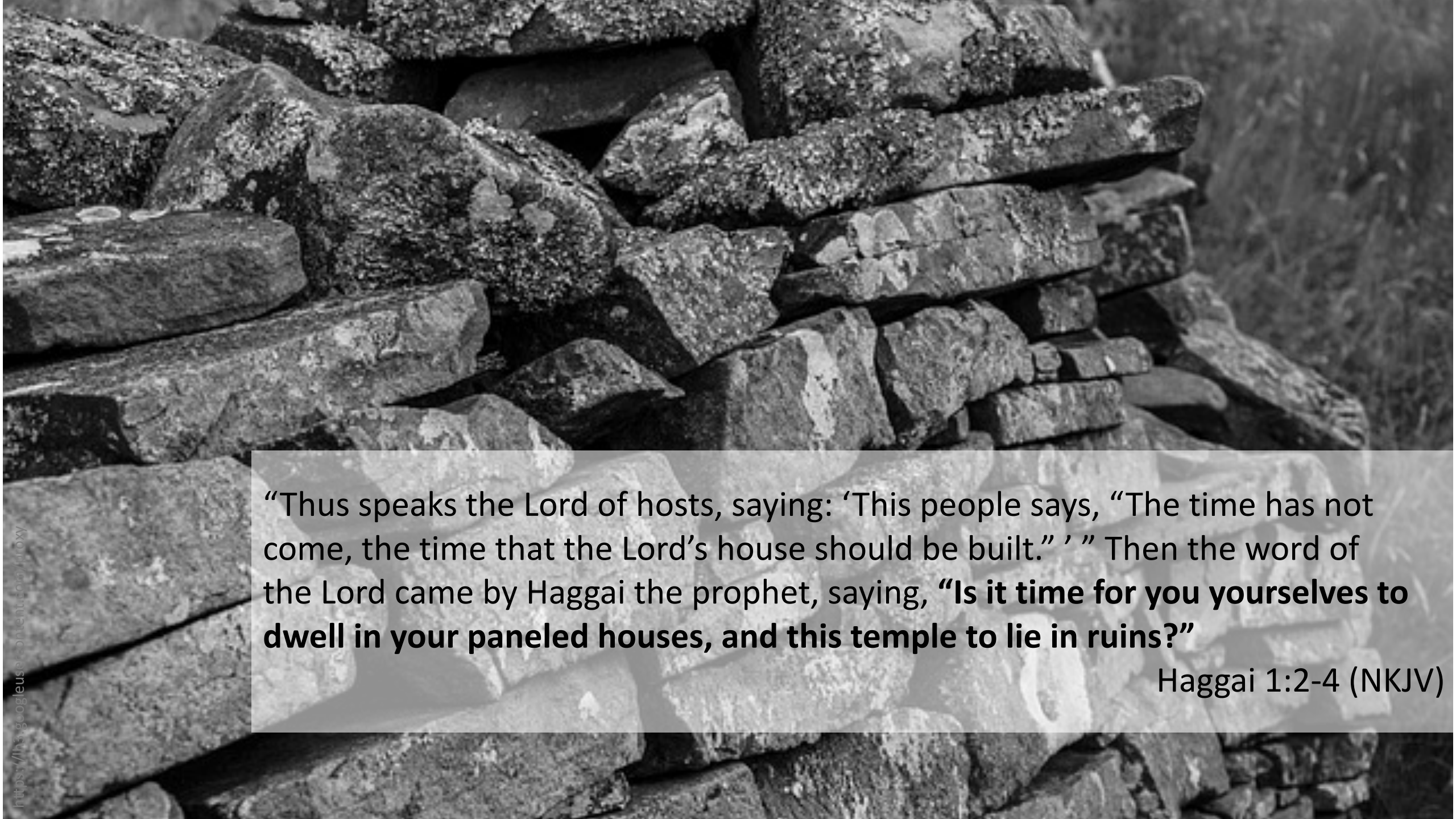
- ⁶ “You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages *to put* into a bag with holes.”
- ⁷ Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider your ways!
- ⁸ Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the Lord.
- ⁹ “*You* looked for much, but indeed *it came to* little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?” says the Lord of hosts. “Because of My house that *is in* ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.
- ¹⁰ Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit.

Haggai 1:1-15

- ¹¹ For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of *your* hands.”
- ¹² Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of the Lord.
- ¹³ Then Haggai, the Lord’s messenger, spoke the Lord’s message to the people, saying, “*I am* with you, says the Lord.”
- ¹⁴ So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God,
- ¹⁵ on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.

Historical Timeline





“Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the Lord’s house should be built.” ’ ” Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, **“Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?”**

Haggai 1:2-4 (NKJV)

Beware of Spiritual Apathy

**Neglect of
God's Work**

Contentment

**Convenient
Excuses**

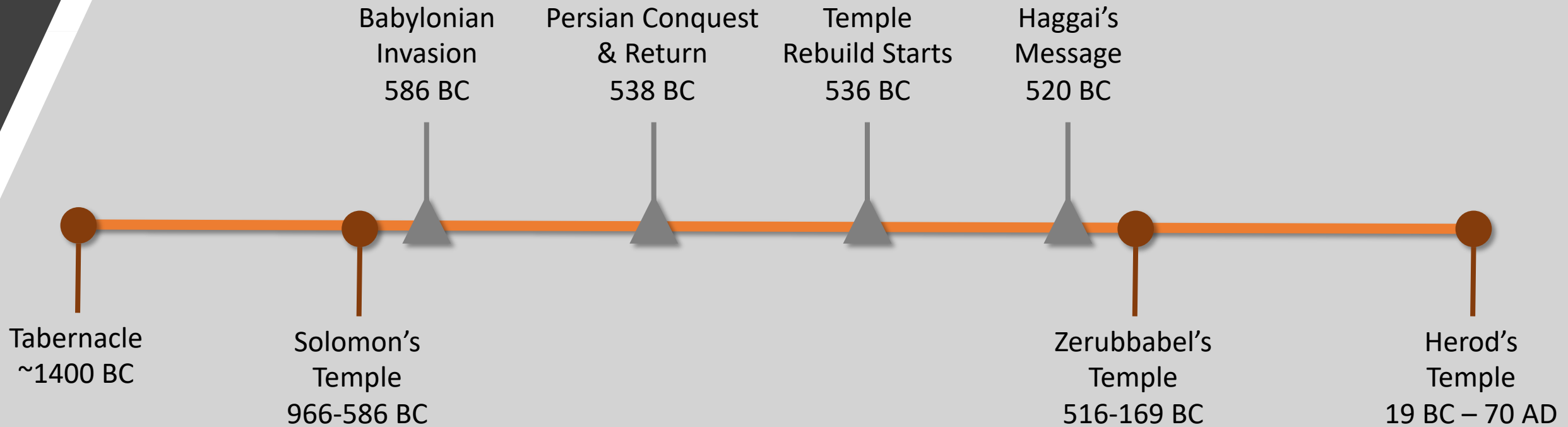
**Misplaced
Priorities**



The way forward – getting our priorities right

- Haggai 1:5 “Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: **“Consider your ways!”**”
- Haggai 1:12 “Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him; and **the people feared the presence of the Lord.**”
- Haggai 1:14 “So **the Lord stirred up the spirit** of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God, ”

Historical Timeline





**Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses,
and this temple to lie in ruins?**

Haggai 1:4 (NKJV)

Reflection & Application

- What is happening in your own life – whether through involvement in ministries of the assembly, in the wider community, or on your own – to build up the Lord's house?
- Looking back on the history of your own personal fellowship, has there been a change in the level of your involvement or energy? If so, what changed and why?
- What steps can you take to evaluate what you are doing (or neglecting to do) for the Lord?

The Questions God Asks

Question

What we learn about God

What we learn about ourselves

Where are you? (Genesis 3)

- The God who created the universe longs for a special relationship with His people

- What "trees" do we allow ourselves to come in between us & God; take a regular, honest assessment of our spiritual state

What is that in your hand? (Exodus 4)

- The almighty God looks for ordinary instruments to accomplish His extraordinary purposes

- Reconsider our resources; trust and allow the Lord to use them to fulfill His calling for us; availability not capability

What are you doing here? (1 Kings 19)

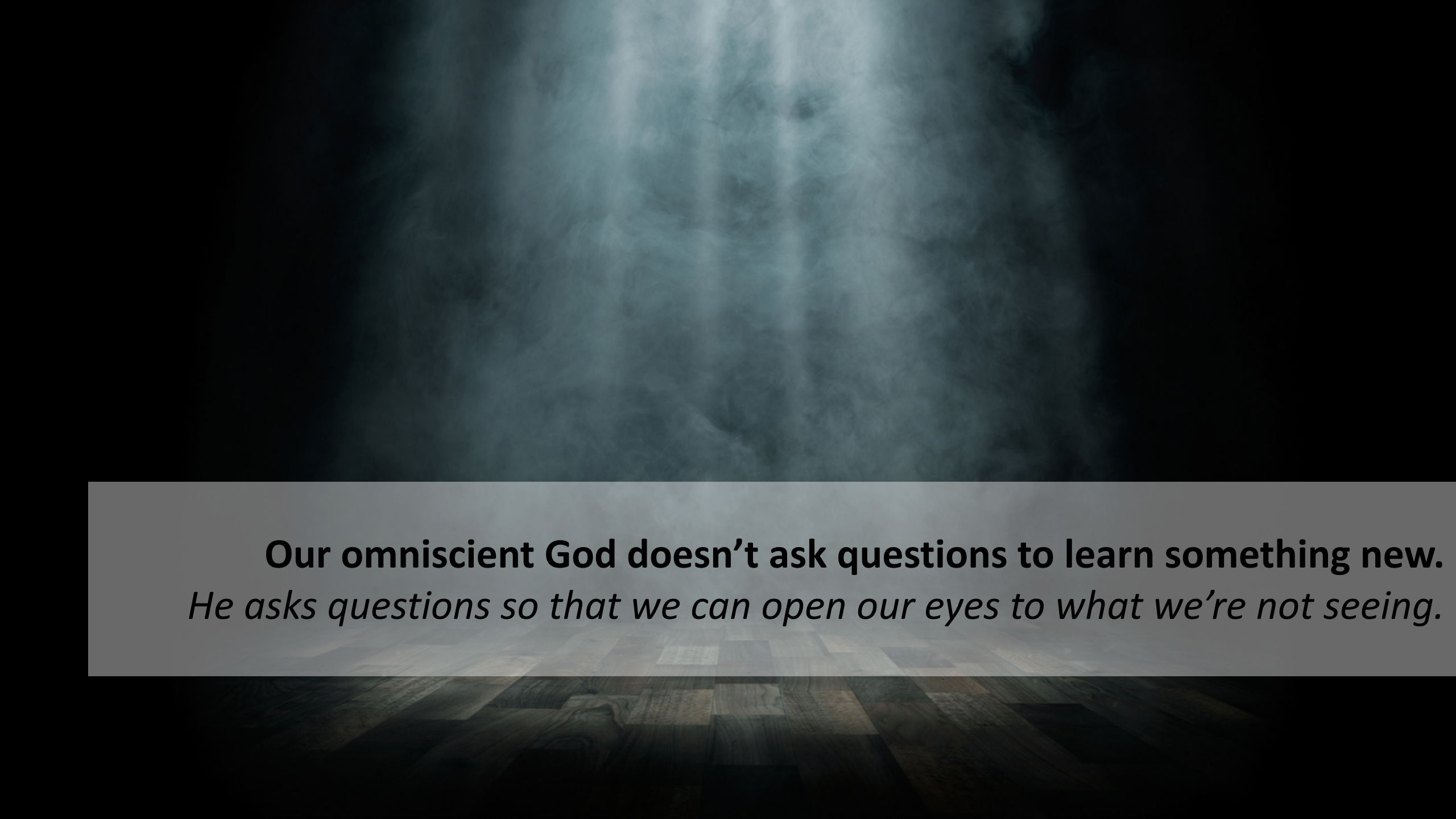
- God's care and mercy reach His people even in their deepest distress; He cares about our emotional state

- Where are we retreating in our lives, forgetting His provision; open our hearts to Him and allow Him to lead us to His place of purpose

Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins? (Haggai 1)

- God and His work demand pre-eminence and prominence in our lives

- What are we prioritizing ahead of God in our lives; where do we put our time, talent, and treasure first?



Our omniscient God doesn't ask questions to learn something new.
He asks questions so that we can open our eyes to what we're not seeing.

Tying it all together

Question

Where are you? (Genesis 3)

What is that in your hand? (Exodus 4)

What are you doing here? (1 Kings 19)

Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins? (Haggai 1)

What Matters to God

- Our Hearts – spiritual state
- Our Hands – resources
- Our Minds – attitude
- Our Priorities – importance



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