

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Sunday, August 23, 2020
Ezra 5:1 and Haggai 1:1-15

1. What did we talk about in Wednesday's Bible Study in Ezra 4? _____
What does Ezra 5:1 say happened next? _____
2. What is one of the first things that God sent Haggai to deal with, according to Haggai 1:1-2? _
3. Has God already said to build His house?
 - a. Yes, there had been prophesy that there would be restoration after 70 years.
 - b. No, because there had been opposition and God had not "opened the door" for it to be built.
 - c. Yes, God spoke to King Cyrus and he commanded that the Temple be built (Ezra 1:2)
 - d. Well, they hadn't heard from God about it in a while, so maybe he changed his mind.
4. What do you think happened to the excitement and drive that the people returned with in the beginning of the book of Ezra? Why would they say "the time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built"?
 - a. They were just unfaithful people.
 - b. It is common for the storms of life to discourage us from doing the will of God.
 - c. It is really easy to be distracted by other priorities, especially when the work that God has called us to do is hard and there doesn't seem to be any opposition when we pursue our own comfort instead.
5. What is God's response in Haggai 1:3?
 - a. Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses while this house remains in ruin?
 - b. It is interesting how you have justified your unwillingness to do what God has said.
 - c. I can see what is important to you.
6. How is the attitude of the people in Haggai different from David's attitude in 2 Samuel 7:1-2?
7. How does your attitude toward the house of God compare with these? _____
8. What does God tell the people in 1:5-11?
 - a. Give careful thought to your ways.
 - b. Haven't you noticed that no matter what you do, it seems like you don't accomplish what you had hoped?
 - c. Have you ever noticed how, no matter how much you plan and try to gather things for yourself, you can never seem to get ahead?
 - d. Go and get what you need to honor the Lord by putting his house before yours.
 - e. As long as you continue to put yourself first, I will continue to withhold your blessing.
9. How does this compare with your situation?
 - a. I have been putting God first in everything and I am experiencing his blessing.
 - b. I have been trying to get my finances settled so that I can start putting God first.
 - c. I have noticed that every time I take one step forward, it seems like I take two steps back.
10. How did the people respond to God's word through Haggai, according to 1:12? _____

What was God's response to them in 1:13? _____
How will you respond to this same message? _____