

Sunday, August 14, 2022
“Minor Prophets: Eternal Questions”
Summary of “The Message of Haggai: Are Your Investments Sound?”
Haggai 1:5
Wayne Shelton

In 536 BC, a large number of Jews (maybe 50,000) made the nine-hundred-mile journey from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Many more Jews remained in Babylon where they had settled and flourished. Those who returned laid the foundation stone to rebuild the temple that had been destroyed, but then they were effectively stopped by the nearby Samaritans. About sixteen-years passed. The Persian Empire went through a couple of rulers. Then in 522 Darius came to the throne, and it was during the period that Darius reigned over Persia that Haggai preached. From late August to mid-December (520 BC), Haggai gave four prophecies that comprise the two chapters of his book. In brief, Haggai called the returned exiles to prioritize the rebuilding of the Lord’s temple in Jerusalem. And the people listened to him. Though Haggai’s prophecies stop in December 520 BC, we know from the book of Ezra that the temple was rebuilt, completed, and dedicated scarcely more than three-years later, by March 516. Chronologically, then, Haggai stands in between the exiled Ezekiel’s vision of the rebuilt temple (Ezek. 40-48) and the reforms of Ezra and Nehemiah.