

context: historical – Ezra, Nehemiah

prophetic – Haggai, Zechariah, Joel

50,000 Jews return from 70 yr Babylonian captivity (fervent ones)

Zerubbabel (gov) and Joshua (priest) start rebuilding temple

Big Deal: Moses – presence/prayer, David – worship,

Solomon’s temple - instruction

stopped by resistance from enemies (letters)

Haggai 1:2-8

Zechariah - build My house (1:16)

- I will dwell in your midst (2:10)

- nations will seek Me in prayer (8:21-22)

(Is 56:7, Mt 21:13)

place of prayer usurped by religious activity

Ezra/Nehemiah (60/70 yrs) rebuild wall (not living in city) – enemies resist

wall protects place of **prayer/worship/instruction**

Do we have structure in place to do this?

issues: compromise – foreign wives (Balak), usury (famine), sabbath

complacency – no tithes, levites/singers home working

actions: read law, took oath to return to it

expelled Tobiah (Ammonite) from tithe room (Neh 13)

gathered and set in place priests/singers (tithes)

restored care of temple (offerings)

foundational principle:

return to Me (repent)

- Hag 1:7, Zech 1:3, Joel 2:13, Mal 3:7, John Baptist Mt 3:1, Jesus Mt 4:17

so that I can **dwell with you**

protect the place of **pray/worship/instruction**

and I can **bless you** (Acts 3:19)

Now we are His temple (1 Cor 3:16)

we can miss His blessing by...

not valuing His presence

neglecting place of prayer/worship/instruction

Malachi – six times “yet you say”

1:1-5 **question God’s love**

Esau (Edom) won’t be rebuilt, Jacob (Israel) restored
Jacob risked immediate safety for future blessing
Esau sold inheritance for immediate gratification
sowing and reaping (faith that God is good)

1:6-2:12 **despised honoring God**

inferior offerings/worship (going through motions)
1:11 prayer (incense – Rev 5:8) among nations
1:13 you call it a weariness
2:4 concerned about covenant with Levi (priests)
no instruction >> compromise (foreign wives/gods)

2:13-16 **complain offerings are ignored**

broke covenant with wife (treachery, violence)
desires generational instruction (more at end)

2:17-3:6 **God is unjust because evil men prosper**

Just One will come/judge, but who can endure?
(Ps 73) sowing and reaping (not unjust, patient)

3:7-12 **“return to Me” – tithes/offerings**

place of prayer/worship/instruction
3:10 food in house = 1) priests/singers
2) revelation
blessing (foundational principle)

3:13-15 **useless to serve God (no profit)**

sowing and reaping (ex: impatient farmer)
self focus (Hag 1:2-4)

3:16-4:6 He listens to those who fear Him: spared, healing, victory
prerequisite: return to foundational principle

(4:1) Zechariah & Joel significant 2nd coming prophecy
Joel 2:28-29 (Acts 2:17-18), Mal 4:5-6
generations (Godly offspring)

1. live the foundational principle
2. teach it to all the generations (consider fervent ones)
3. or you are setting them up for a curse