

## **Construction Resumes**

Haggai

Ezra 5:1-2

Zechariah 1:1-6

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Sheshbazzar and the first wave of returnees had purchased a large quantity of cedar from Lebanon to be used for paneling the inside of the Temple. But then work on the Temple had come to a halt for ten years. During that time, the stockpile of cedar had dwindled as the people used it in their own homes. By the time Zerubbabel arrived with a second wave of returnees, there was no cedar left at all.

The Lord spoke through the prophet Haggai. "You have used the cedar from Lebanon to panel your own houses while my house remains in ruins. Go into the hills; replace the cedar you have stolen from me with whatever wood you can find; and build my house. I will be pleased."

The Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, the spirit of Jeshua the high priest, and the spirit of the people. They did what the Lord said and began to work on the house of their God.

The Lord said, "Think carefully about your relationship with me and with those around you. Don't be like your ancestors who turned away from me. Be strong and work. I am with you. Since my house is finally being rebuilt, you may now look forward to prosperity and blessings. Soon my Messiah will come, and this house will be a place of peace, filled with my glory."

To Zerubbabel the Lord said, "The heavens and the earth will be shaken; kingdoms will fall; armies will destroy one another; and you will be my signet ring. I have chosen you as my servant. You will rebuild my Temple, the mark of my authority over all the earth.