



## "THE RETURN HOME" CHAPTER 19



God used the army of Babylon to destroy the temple in Jerusalem and to lead His people into captivity.

After 70 years God will again use a pagan king, Cyrus King of Persia, to bring His people home again.

Notice how God can and does use pagans to fulfill His plans for His people.

Jeremiah had foretold this years before. Now his prophecy is being fulfilled



About 537 B.C. Zerubbabel, the appointed Governor of Judah, leads nearly 50,000 Jews back home.

Their task is to rebuild the temple. They get off to a good start having laid the foundation.

A great celebration of worship followed.

Note that those who had seen the former temple wept as they compared the new with the former.



There was opposition to the rebuilding of the temple.

Samaritans and others feared that rebuilding the temple and establishing a Jewish state would bring political instability.

Those who resisted were effective and the rebuilding project was stopped.

People began to focus on their own lives and their homes.

For 16 years no work was done on the temple.



God sends the prophet Haggai to remind the people about proper priorities.

When they focused on their own needs, they were not blessed.

The people heeded the voice of Haggai.

Zerubbabel, son of the Governor, and Joshua, son of the High Priest led the effort to rebuild the temple.



Both Haggai and Zechariah prophesied during this period giving strong encouragement to the people, promising God rich blessings that would culminate in the coming of the Messiah.

Opposition also continued to be a part of their lives.

A letter was sent to Darius, King of Persia, by enemies of the Jews, seeking that work would stop on the temple.

Darius checks the records of Cyrus, ordering everyone to support the work of rebuilding of the temple. See how God is in control.



In 516 B.C. the temple is completed.  
70 years after it was destroyed.

Zechariah had foretold that when the  
temple was complete people would be  
drawn to Jerusalem.

They would see how God had blessed  
the Jews and people would be drawn  
to faith in God.