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- **Main Themes**
 - The Day of the LORD
 - Salvation to the ends of the earth
 - Idolatry
 - Perversion of righteousness by leadership
- **Role in the Twelve**
 - Zephaniah represents the climax and beginning of the falling action in the Twelve, serving as a hinge between the judgment (Nahum and Habakkuk) and restoration (Haggai-Malachi) sections of the Twelve.
- **Textual Connection to the New Testament**
 - Zephaniah 3:13 is very likely behind Revelation 14:5.
- **Application in the Light of Christ**
 - The nations and the Great Commission
 - The expected purity of God's people
 - The expectation of the final Day

2

Haggai | Historical and Critical Info

- The book of Haggai jumps forward 70 or so years from the book of Zephaniah and addresses the people after they have returned from exile under the decree of Cyrus. Haggai is dated with extreme precision, the first oracle coming on August 29th, 520 BC, and the fourth oracle coming on December 18th of the same year.
 - o Each message contains its own 1) date formula 2) conflict or problem 3) call to obedience and 4) divine promise.
- It is important to note that three out of the five dates provided are explicitly linked to the reign of a *Persian* king (Darius) and not an Israelite/Judahite king. Zephaniah recalled a time where God would restore the scattered exiles to himself along with the nations, but the references to Darius clarify that even in their return, they were still under foreign dominion.

3

Historical and Critical Info Cont...

- Because of local opposition (Ezra 1-4), the returnees had begun reconstructing the temple, but then ceased. Despite returning to Jerusalem, therefore, morale was low and motivation was lacking.
- With a name meaning “festival/feast,” little to nothing is known of Haggai “the prophet.”
 - Second shortest book (Obadiah) in the OT

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Haggai

Main Themes

- The primacy of the LORD's glory and agenda
- The coming glory of the temple
- Blessing and curses for obedience and disobedience

Role in the Twelve

- Haggai begins the restoration section of the Twelve, indicated by the return of the people to Jerusalem from exile, the response of obedience to Haggai's message and the rebuilding—and promised future glory and peace—of the temple.

5

Haggai

Textual Connection to the NT

- Hag. 2:6 and 2:21 are quoted in Heb. 12:26 as a reference to the consummation of the kingdom that “cannot be shaken.”

Application in the Light of Christ

- God's priorities, our priorities
- ‘Temple’ as God *with* and *in* us

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