

Haggai 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

Analysis

In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king בְּיֹם עֶשֶׂרִים וָעֶשֶׂרִי לְחַקֵּשׁ בְּשָׁנָה שְׁתִּים לְדָרַיָּשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ)—beyom esrim ve'arba'ah lachodesh bashishi bishnat shetayim leDaryavesh hamelekh)—precise dating (September 21, 520 BC by our calendar) marks the people's response. Haggai's first message came on the first day of the sixth month (v.1); work resumed on the twenty-fourth day—just twenty-three days later. This swift obedience demonstrates genuine repentance and Spirit-wrought transformation.

The specific dating serves multiple purposes: it authenticates the historical reality of these events, it emphasizes God's sovereignty over time and history, and it memorializes this moment of renewed obedience. Just as Israel remembered the Exodus date, Passover timing, and other significant moments, this date marked spiritual awakening—when a discouraged, self-focused community became builders of God's house.

This verse concludes the first chapter, which began with dating (v.1) and ends with dating—bracketing the prophetic message and the people's response within God's sovereign historical timeline. The second year of Darius was a time of relative stability in the Persian Empire, providing external circumstances that allowed the work to proceed. Yet the primary factor wasn't political stability but spiritual renewal: God stirred hearts, and people obeyed.

Historical Context

The sixth month corresponds to Elul in the Hebrew calendar (August-September in our calendar). Three weeks separated Haggai's initial message and resumed construction—time for the message to circulate, for conviction to deepen, for practical preparations (gathering tools, organizing labor), and for community-wide commitment to coalesce. The rapid response stands in stark contrast to sixteen years of inaction, demonstrating the power of God's word faithfully preached and the Holy Spirit's convicting work.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the rapid obedience (23 days) after prolonged disobedience (16 years) demonstrate the transforming power of God's word and Spirit?
2. What procrastinated obedience in your life needs decisive action—moving from good intentions to concrete steps?
3. How does God's sovereignty over historical timing (using even Persian political stability) encourage trust that He orchestrates circumstances to accomplish His purposes?

Interlinear Text

בְּשָׁנָה תְּבִשֵּׁשׁ וְבְשָׁנָה יְמִינָה וְבְשָׁנָה תְּבִשֵּׁשׁ וְבְשָׁנָה יְמִינָה

day and twentieth In the four month of the sixth year

H3117 H6242 H702 H2320 H8345 H8141

בְּמִלְחָמָה לְדָרִי וְשָׁתְּ יָמִינָה

in the second of Darius the king

H8147 H1867 H4428

Additional Cross-References

Haggai 1:1 (Kingdom): In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

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