

2 ¹⁰On the twenty-fourth of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the work of the LORD came to Haggai the prophet, saying, ¹¹"The LORD of armies says this: 'Now ask the priests for a ruling: 12 If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches bread with this fold, or touches cooked food, wine, oil or any other food, will it become holy?" And the priests answered,

"No."

¹³Then Haggai said, "If one who is unclean from a corpse touches any of these things, will the latter become unclean?" And the priests answered, "It will become unclean." 14Then Haggai responded and said "So is this people. And so is this nation before Me,' declares the LORD, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.

¹⁵But now, do consider from this day onward: before one stone was placed on another in the temple of the LORD, 16 from that time when one came to a grain heap of twenty measures, there would be only ten; and when one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there would be only twenty.

¹⁷I struck you and every work of your hands with scorching wind, mildew, and hail; yet you did not come back to Me,' declares the LORD. 18Do consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month; from the day when the temple of the LORD was founded, consider:

¹⁹Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree, it has not produced fruit. Yet from this day on I will bless you."

²⁰Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twentyfourth day of the month, saying, ²¹ "Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, 'I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. ²²And I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, every one by the sword of another.

²³ On that day,' declares the LORD of armies, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the LORD, and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you," declares the LORD of armies.



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