

## ENCOURAGING THE BUILDERS

Lesson XI.

Haggai 2 : 1-9—Memory Verses, 4, 5

September 10, 1899

1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Hag'gai, saying,

2 Speak now to Zerub'babel the son of Sheal'tiel, governor of Ju'dah, and to Josh'ua the son of Jos'edeck, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,

3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

4 Yet now be strong, O Zerub'babel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Josh'ua, son of Jos'edeck, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of E'gypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine saith the LORD of hosts.

9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

The people were discouraged in their work.

They began to talk in this way. "It's no use for us to go on building the Temple. Our enemies are too strong for us. It's really no use trying. We had better get to work and build some homes for ourselves."

So they made splendid houses and planted fields and gardens. Fifteen years had gone

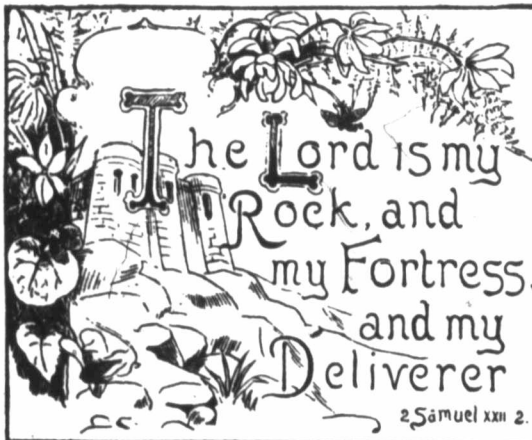
governor of Judah and all the people a question. "How many of you remember what the first Temple was like?"

Then the old people began to tell how King Solomon had sent all over the world for gold, and precious stones, and fine sorts of wood and money for God's house; how a hill was chosen to build on, so that all could see it and how the beautiful gold roof glistened when the sun shone. Then away inside stood the ark to help them to remember that God was always there. But now everything was gone except the hill and the blocks of stone which they had set there sixteen years ago.

"Things do look pretty badly, do they not?" said the Lord. "Yet I want you to be strong and get to work, for I AM WITH you and the new Temple will be more glorious than the old."

God never forgets a promise. Long before this He had promised to make the children of Israel a great nation by His spirit, and now He sent Haggai to remind them of His words and to tell them not to be down-hearted.

Of course the builders needed money. The Jews had brought a great deal from Babylon but they had been using it for themselves. But God said, "The silver and the gold are mine."



by and the Temple was not yet built. They had not done right.

But the crops did not turn out well and many of the cattle and sheep died.

Something was the matter.

Then God sent them a message. This time He spoke by the prophet Haggai. He was told to ask the high priest and the