

JPS Translation, modified - <http://www.hareidi.org/bible/Haggai1.htm>

1:1 - In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of Gd by Chaggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying: 'So speaks the Gd of multitudes, saying: This people say: The time is not come, the time that Gd's house should be built.'

1:3 - Then came the word of Gd by Chaggai the prophet, saying: 'Is it a time for you to dwell in your houses, while this house lies waste? Now therefore thus says the Gd of multitudes: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and brought in little, you eat, but you have not enough, you drink, but you are not filled with drink, you clothe yourselves, but none are warm; and he that earns wages earns wages for a bag with holes.'

1:7 - Thus says the Gd of multitudes: Consider your ways. Go up to the hill-country, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, says Gd. You looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when you brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? says the Gd of multitudes. Because of My house that lies waste, while you run every man for his own house.'

1:10 - Therefore over you the heaven has kept back, so that there is no dew, and the earth has kept back her produce. And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground brings forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.'

1:12 - Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, hearkened to the voice of Gd, and to the words of Chaggai the prophet, as Gd had sent him; and the people did fear before Gd. Then spoke Chaggai Gd's messenger in Gd's message to the people, saying: 'I am with you, says Gd.' And Gd stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the Gd of multitudes, their Gd, in the four and twentieth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.'

2:1 - In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of Gd by Chaggai the prophet, saying: 'Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying: 'Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? and how do you see it now? is not such a one as nothing in your eyes? Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, says Gd; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land, says Gd, and work; for I am with you, says the Gd of multitudes. The word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt have I established, and My spirit abides among you; fear you not.'

2:6 - For thus says the Gd of multitudes: Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the choicest things of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Gd of multitudes. Mine is the silver, and Mine the gold, says the Gd of multitudes. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than that of the former, says the Gd of multitudes; and in this place will I give peace, says the Gd of multitudes.'

2:10 - In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of Gd by Chaggai the prophet, saying: 'Thus says the Gd of multitudes: Ask now the priests for instruction, saying: If one bear hallowed flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any food, shall it be holy?' And the priests answered and said: 'No.' Then said Chaggai: 'If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean?' And the priests answered and said: 'It shall be unclean.' Then answered Chaggai, and said: 'So is this people, and so is this nation before me, says Gd; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean. And now, I pray you, consider from this day and forward—before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of Gd, through all that time, when one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten; when one came to the winevat to draw out fifty press-measures, there were but twenty; I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the work of your

hands; yet you turned not to Me, says Gd- consider, I pray you, from this day and forward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of Gd's temple was laid, consider it; is the seed yet in the barn? yea, the vine, and the fig-tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive-tree has not brought forth—from this day will I bless you.'

2:20 - And the word of Gd came the second time to Chaggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying: 'Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: I will shake the heavens and the earth; and I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. In that day, says the Gd of multitudes, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, My servant, the son of Shealtiel, says Gd, and will make thee as a signet; for I have chosen thee, says the Gd of multitudes.'

1. Don Isaac Abarbanel (15th-16th century Spain/Italy) to Zechariah 1:1

It also mentioned that this was in the sixth month, the first day of the month, which is the first day of Elul, to teach that the date aroused him to this. On that day Moshe ascended the mountain to receive the second tablets, after the first had been broken. So, too, after the first destruction, on that holy day, the start of the forty days of repentance, Chaggai received a prophecy about building the second Beit haMikdash...

2. Rabbi Meir Leibush "Malbim" (19th century Ukraine) to Chaggai 1:2

The nation had a prophetic tradition that before the true redemption there would be miracles in the heavens and earth, and the war of Gog and Magog... How could we say the time has come to build, if the time which must come before building, the time of signs and miracles, has not yet happened? Also, a condition of building was that they have rest from their enemies first, as they had at the time when Shlomo built the Beit haMikdash, and that time of rest had not arrived; they were bound to the kings of Madai and Paras.

3. Rabbi Meir Leibush "Malbim" (19th century Ukraine) to Chaggai 1:4-5

For this, too, the designated time foretold by the prophets for you to dwell in peace must arrive – but you do not ask for the foretold time for this!... See and understand that you must be the ones to build the Mikdash!

4. Don Isaac Abarbanel (15th-16th century Spain/Italy) to Zechariah 1:1

The verse identified a day and month here, but not a year, saying, "On the seventh, the 21st of the month." This taught that the day brought him to prophecy, for that day was the 21st of Tishrei, Hoshana Rabbah, the end of Succot, the day of the *aravah*, when there was great joy in the house of Gd. Therefore, the elders gathered there wept, remembering the joy of the water drawing which was celebrated on that day in the first Beit haMikdash. Therefore, construction of the second Beit haMikdash was as nothing in their eyes, and so this prophecy came to comfort them.

5. Yehuda Avner, The Prime Ministers, pg. 349

"So tell us, Marcel, what did you do in Casablanca?"

"I was a bookkeeper. That's an occupation of kavod. Now I'm a waiter. In Morocco, only Arabs are waiters. In Casablanca we lived in a big house with a courtyard. Now, I, my wife, my three children, my mother, my father – all of us live in four ramshackle rooms. Our kavod has been trampled upon. The Ashkenazi Labor bosses did that. And now Menachem Begin is giving us our kavod back."

6. Rabbi Meir Leibush "Malbim" (19th century Ukraine) to Chaggai 2:14

Whatever they bring there is impure, because they do not offer it before Gd in sanctity, for the offering to be spiritual with appropriate intent. They only bring "there", meaning in that distant physical site, on stones, a physical, animal offering. Therefore it is impure, for the impurity of their body and land will adhere to their offering. Thus he taught them that they had not yet sanctified themselves appropriately to cleave to holiness and to build the spiritual Temple and altar with their heart and soul, to bring their souls as offerings to Gd there.