

PART 1 – CONTEXT**1. חגי א:**

בשנת שמיים לדרגוש המלך בחדש הששי ביום אחד לחודש הנה דברייקוק ביד-חגי הנביא אל-נרבלל בן-שאלתיאל פחת יהודה ואל-הושע בן-הוצצק הפתו הגדול לאמר:

1. Haggai 1:1

In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, this word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

Date (BCE)	Notable events
605	Babylonians conquer Jerusalem
597	Exile of King Jehoiachin and elite
586	Destruction of Temple and mass exile
585	Assassination of Gedaliah
559	Cyrus becomes Persian King
539	Cyrus conquers Babylon – rise of Persian Empire
538	Edict of Cyrus (first return under Sheshbazzar)
537	Foundations of Second Temple laid
522	Darius becomes Persian King
520	Work begins on rebuilding of Temple
516	Dedication of Second Temple



The Cyrus cylinder, which confirms that Cyrus allowed captives in Babylon to return to their native lands

2. עזרא פרק ב

נט) ואלה העלים מתל מלח תל חרשא כרוב אדן אמר ולא נכלו להגיד בית-אבותם ונרעם אם מישראל הם: ס) בני-דלגה בני-טוביה בני נקודא נש מאות חמששים ושנים: סא) ומבני הפהנים בני חבנה בני הקוז בני ברזלי אשר לקח מבנות ברזלי הגלעדי אשר ויקרא על-שם: סב) אלה בקשו כתבם המתחשים ולא נמצאו ויגאלו מן הפהנה: סג) ויאמר התרשתא להם אשר לא-יאכלו מקדש הקדשים עד עמד פתו לאורים ולתמים: סד) כליהקהל כאחד ארבע רבוא אלפים שלש-מאות ששים: סה) מלבד עבדיהם ואמהותיהם אלה שבעת אלפים שלש מאות שלשים ושבעה ולתם משררים ומשררות מאתים:

2. Ezra Chapter 2

59) The following were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer—they were unable to tell whether their father's house and descent were Israelite: 60) the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda—652. 61) Of the sons of the priests, the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai who had married a daughter of Barzillai and had taken his name— 62) these searched for their genealogical records, but they could not be found, so they were disqualified for the priesthood. 63) The Tirshatha ordered them not to eat of the most holy things until a priest with Urim and Thummim should appear. 64) **The sum of the entire community was 42,360** 65) not counting their male and female servants, those being 7,337; they also had 200 male and female singers.

3. ירמיהו כט:

כ"ה אמר יקוק כי ל"י מלאת לבבל שבעים שנה אפקד אתכם ונקמתי עליכם את-דברי הטוב להשיב אתכם אל-המקום הזה:

3. Jeremiah 29:10

For thus said the Lord: When Babylon's seventy years are over, I will take note of you, and I will fulfill to you My promise of favor—to bring you back to this place.

PART 2 – CONTENT

1	Chapter 1:1-15	1 st Ellul*	Rebuke	Call to rebuild the Temple (v.2-11) and the response of the people (v.12-15)
2	Chapter 2:1-9	21 st Tishrei	Consolation	Encouragement of the people in relation to future of the Temple and connection to God
3	Chapter 2:10-19	24 th Kislev	Rebuke	Against the participation of the Shomronim in the building of the Temple
4	Chapter 2:20-23	24 th Kislev	Consolation	Consolation – Zerubavel will be God’s chosen leader

*All dates are from the second year of King Darius, 520_{BCE}

PART 3 – CONCEPTS

4. חגי פרק א

(ב) כֹּה אָמַר יְקוּם צְבָאוֹת לֵאמֹר הַעֵם הַזֶּה אָמְרוּ לֹא עֲתִבָּא עֲתִבִּית יְקוּם לְהַבְנוֹת: (פ)
 (ג) וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְקוּם בְּיַד־חֲגִי הַנְּבִיא לֵאמֹר: (ד) הַעֵת לְכֶם אֲתֵם לְשִׁבְתַּת בְּבִתְיֵכֶם סְפוּגִים וְהַבֵּית הַזֶּה חָרַב: (ה) וְעַתָּה זֶה אָמַר יְקוּם צְבָאוֹת שִׁימוּ לְבַבְכֶם עַל־דַּרְכֵיכֶם: (ו) זָרַעְתֶּם הַרְבֵּה וְהִבֵּא מֵעֵט אֶכּוֹל וְאִיר־לְשִׁבְעָה שְׂתוּ וְאִיר־לְשִׁכְרָה לְבוֹשׁ וְאִיר־לָחֶם לֹא וְהַמְשַׁמֵּר מִשְׁתַּמֵּר אֶל־צָרוֹר נָקוּב: (פ)
 (ז) כֹּה אָמַר יְקוּם צְבָאוֹת שִׁימוּ לְבַבְכֶם עַל־דַּרְכֵיכֶם: (ח) עָלוּ הָהָר וְהִבַּאתֶם עֵץ וַיְבִנוּ הַבַּיִת וְאָרְצָה־כּוֹ וְאִכְבַּד [וְאִפְכְּדָה] אָמַר יְקוּם: (ט) פָּנָה אֶל־הַרְבֵּה וְהִנֵּה לְמַעַט וְהִבַּאתֶם הַבַּיִת וְנִפְחַתִּי בּוֹ יַעַן מָה נָאֵם יְקוּם צְבָאוֹת לְעַן בֵּיתִי אֲשֶׁר־הָיָא חָרַב וְאַתֶּם רָצִים אִישׁ לְבֵיתוֹ: (י) עַל־כֵּן עָלִיכֶם פְּלֹאז שְׂמִים מִטָּל וְהִאֲרִץ פְּלֹאָה: (יא) וְאִקְרָא חָרַב עַל־הָאֲרִץ וְעַל־הַהָרִים וְעַל־הַדָּגָן וְעַל־הַתִּירוֹשׁ וְעַל־הַיַּצְהָר וְעַל אֲשֶׁר תּוֹצִיא הָאֲדָמָה וְעַל־הַבָּהֱמָה וְעַל כָּל־יִגְיַע כְּפִים: (יב) וַיִּשְׁמַע זְרֻבָבֶל וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּנֵי־הוֹצִיָּהוּ הַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־יִתְּעוּ בְּקוֹל יְקוּם אֱלֹקֵיהֶם וְעַל־דַּבְּרֵי חֲגִי הַנְּבִיא פֶּאֶשֶׁר שָׁלַחָו יְקוּם אֱלֹקֵיהֶם וַיִּירָאוּ הָעָם מִפְּנֵי יְקוּם: (יג) וַיֹּאמֶר חֲגִי מִלֶּאֱדָה יְקוּם בְּמַלְאָכוֹת יְקוּם לְעַם לֵאמֹר אֲנִי אֲתֵכֶם נְאֻם־יְקוּם: (יד) וַיַּעַר יְהוָה אֶת־רוּסֵי זְרֻבָבֶל בְּנֵי־שְׁלֵמַיָּאל פֶּתַח יְהוּדָה וְאֶת־רוּסֵי יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּנֵי־הוֹצִיָּהוּ הַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל וְאֶת־רוּסֵי כָּל אֲשֶׁר־יִתְּעוּ הָעָם וַיִּבְאוּ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ מִלְאָכָה בְּבֵית־יְקוּם צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹקֵיהֶם: (פ)
 (טו) בַּיּוֹם עָשְׂרִים וָאָרְבָּעָה לַחֹדֶשׁ בִּשְׁשִׁי בִּשְׁנַת שְׁתַּיִם לְדַרְגוֹשׁ הַמֶּלֶךְ:

4. Haggai Chapter 1

- 2) Thus said the Lord of Hosts: These people say, “The time has not yet come for rebuilding the House of the Lord.”
- 3) And the word of the Lord through the prophet Haggai continued: 4) Is it a time for you to dwell in your paneled houses, while this House is lying in ruins? 5) Now thus said the Lord of Hosts: set your heart to consider your ways! 6) You have sowed much and brought in little; you eat without being satisfied; you drink without getting your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one gets warm; and he who earns anything earns it for a leaky purse.
- 7) Thus said the Lord of Hosts: set your heart to consider your ways! 8) Go up to the hills and get timber, and rebuild the House; then I will look on it with favor and I will be glorified—said the Lord. 9) You have been expecting much and getting little; and when you brought it home, I would blow on it! Because of what?—says the Lord of Hosts. Because of My House which lies in ruins, while you all hurry to your own houses! 10) That is why the skies above you have withheld [their] moisture and the earth has withheld its yield, 11) and I have summoned fierce heat upon the land—upon the hills, upon the new grain and wine and oil, upon all that the ground produces, upon man and beast, and upon all the fruits of labor.
- 12) Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak and all the rest of the people gave heed to the summons of the Lord their God and to the words of the prophet Haggai, when the Lord their God sent him; the people feared the Lord. 13) And Haggai, the

Lord's messenger, fulfilling the Lord's mission, spoke to the people, "I am with you— declares the Lord." 14) Then the Lord roused the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and the spirit of the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and the spirit of all the rest of the people: **They came and set to work on the House of the Lord of Hosts, their God** 15) on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month. In the second year of King Darius

5. Rabbi Professor Elie Assis, "Chaggai: Structure and Meanings" – "While role of the pre-exilic prophets was to warn of destruction, Haggai and Zechariah's role was to build and rehabilitate the physically and spiritually destroyed people."

6. דברים לב:מו

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם שִׁימוּ לְבַבְכֶם לְכָל־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מַעֲיֵד בְּכֶם הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר תִּצְוֶנָה אֶת־בְּנֵיכֶם לְשָׁמֵר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת־כָּל־דְּבַר־יְהוָה הַזֶּה:

6. Deuteronomy 32:46

He said to them: **Take to heart all the words with which I have warned you this day.** Enjoin them upon your children, that they may observe faithfully all the terms of this teaching.

7. רשי על דברים לב:מו

שימו לבבכם - צריך אדם שיהיו עיניו ולבו ואזניו מכוננים לדברי תורה, וכן הוא אומר "בן אדם ראה בעיניך ובאזניך שמע ושים לבך" (יחזקאל מ') ודברי דברים קל וחומר ומה תבנית הבית שיהוא נראה לעינים ונמדד בקנה צריך אדם שיהיו עיניו ואזניו ולבו מכוננים, להבין דברי תורה שהם כהררין תלויין בשערה על אחת כמה וכמה (ספרי)

7. Rashi on Devarim 32:46

Set your hearts: A person must direct his eyes, his heart, and his ears to the words of the Torah, for Scripture states (Ezek. 40: 4) "Son of man, see with your eyes, and listen with your ears, and set your heart [upon all that I show you]" [namely, the plan of the Holy Temple]. Now, here, we have an inference from major to minor: If in the case of the plan of the Holy Temple, which is visible to the eyes and which is measured with a measuring-rod, a person must direct his eyes, ears, and heart to understand, how much more so must he do so to understand the words of the Torah, which are likened to "mountains suspended by a hair" [i.e., numerous laws derived from a single word of the Torah]?!- [Sifrei 32:45]

CHAGGAI SUMMARY

Context

- **When?** 520BCE in Jerusalem, speaking to those who have returned to the land of Israel at the start of period known as Shivat Tzion

Content

- Chaggai successfully rebukes the people for not having rebuilt the Temple, and inspires them into rebuilding it

Concepts

- Theological encouragement that God is present with us even post-exile and in difficult times
- Concept of repentance: need to examine your deeds and serve God in full (not just about building the Temple only)