



Haggai Story

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 18 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")
- 18 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)



DIRECTIONS

- Print the story (pages 2-37) front and back on cardstock paper.
- Laminate all pages **EXCEPT** for page 12-13 (Story Page 6) which needs to be folded.
- Fold the top of page 12 down so that you can **NOT** see the heavenly army, but you can see the earthly army (see picture to the left). When telling the story, keep page 12-13 folded so the students can not see the angels in the sky until you get to *(Unfold top)*.
- Before reading the story, write "the Lord of Hosts," "Consider" and "I am with you" on the white board making three columns. Ask for volunteers to put tally marks under these phrases every time they hear these words.

Graphics: Laura Strickland
<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

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<http://www.freebibleimages.org/>

Graphics: Ian Coate
<https://www.freechristianillustrations.com/clipart.html>

The 2nd year of King Darius, the 6th month, the 1st day...



Haggai,
the prophet



Joshua,
the high priest

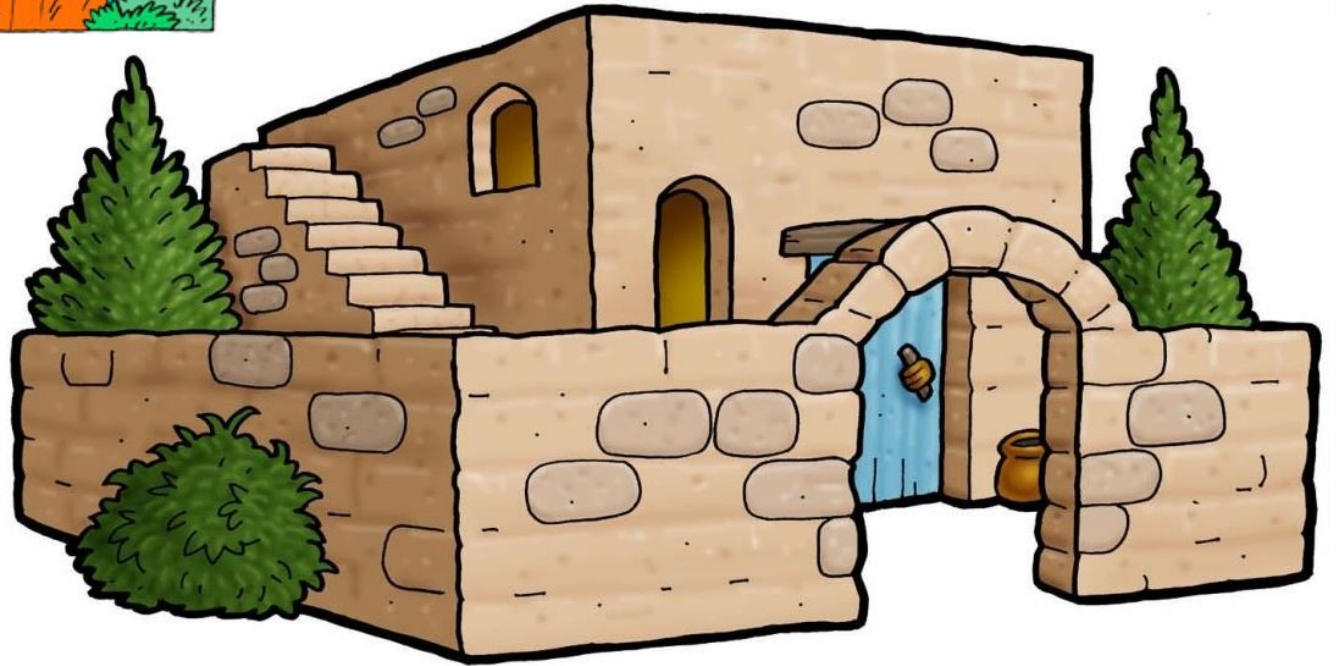
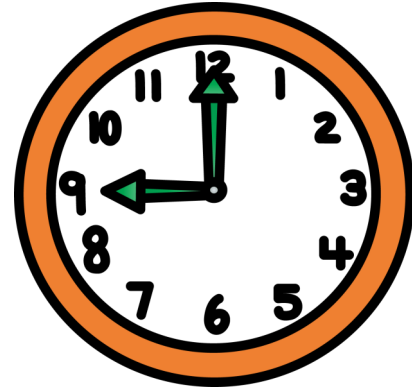
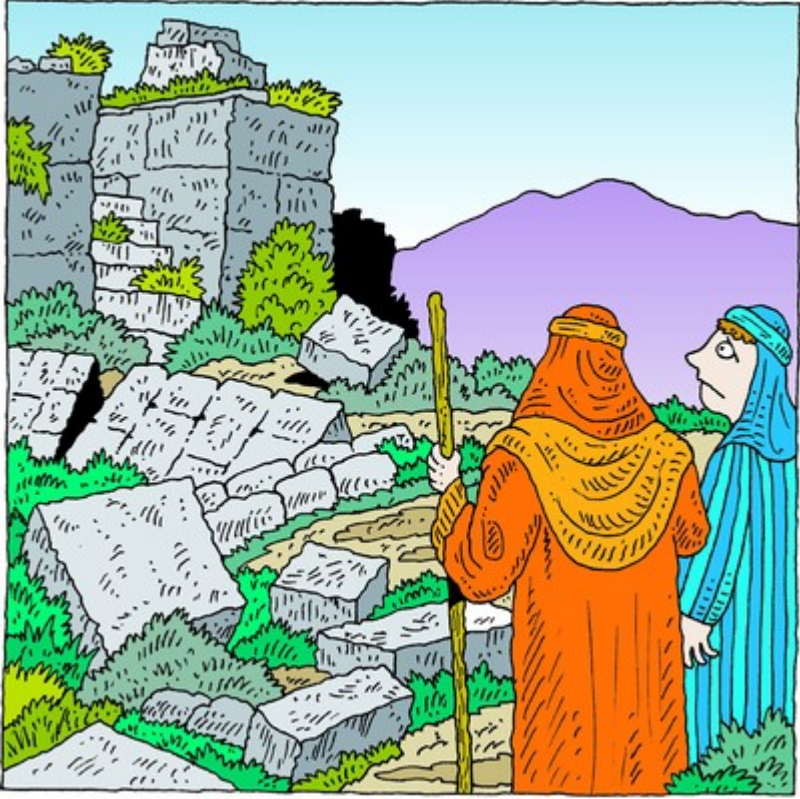


Zerubbabel,
the governor of Judah

Before reading the story, write "the Lord of Hosts," "Consider" and "I am with you" on the white board making three columns. Ask for volunteers to put tally marks under these phrases every time they hear these words.

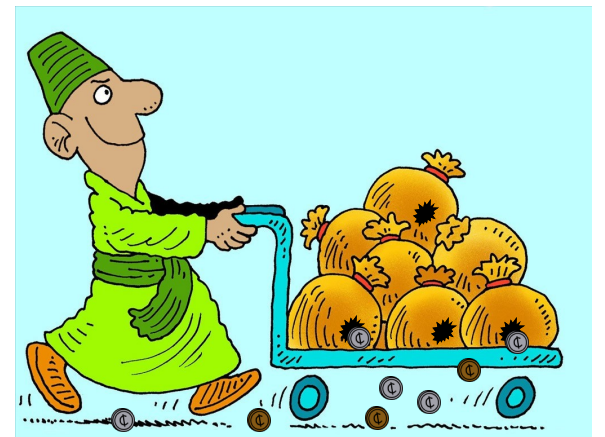
In the 2nd year of King Darius, in the 6th month, on the 1st day...

The word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah and to Joshua the high priest saying:



Thus says the Lord of Hosts: the people say the time has not come to build the Lord's house. But the Lord says, "Is it time for you to dwell in your nice houses and this temple to lie in ruins?"

God is saying, "How can you have such nice houses while my house is still in ruins? Do you think God was happy with them? Do you think God's house is more important than your house?"



Thus says the Lord of Hosts: "Consider your ways!

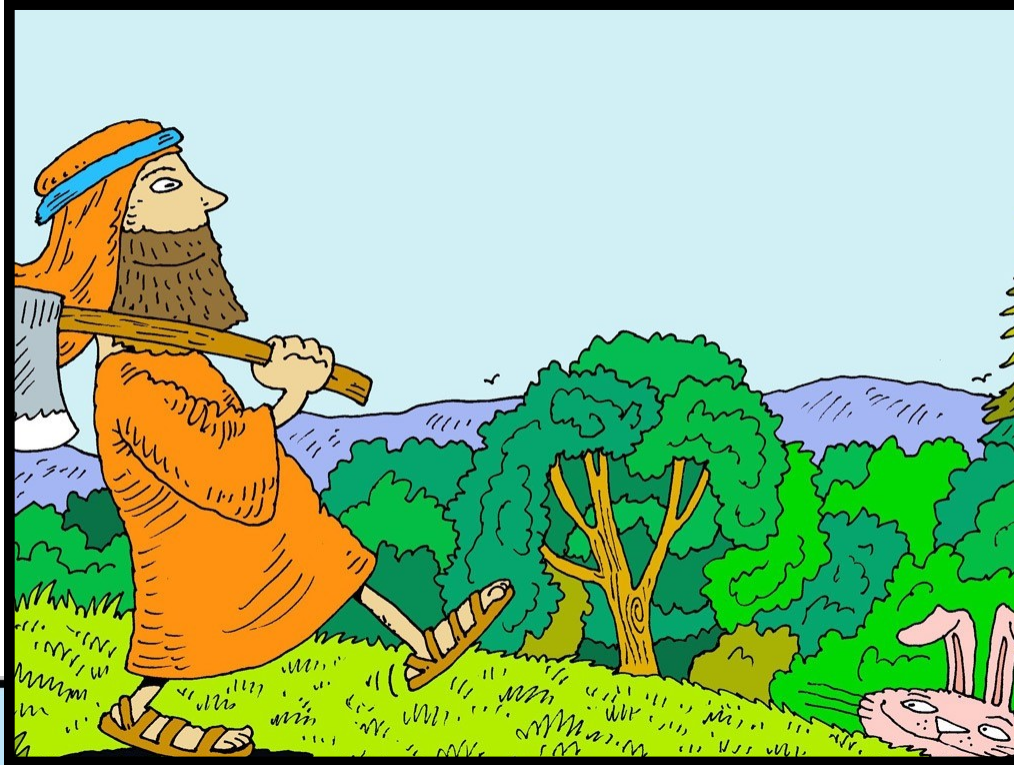
You have sown much, but reap little.

You eat, but do not have enough.

You drink, but you are not full.

You clothe yourselves, but are not warm.

And he who earns money, puts his wages into a bag with holes.



Thus says the Lord of Hosts: "Consider your ways!

Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple...

You look for a big harvest, but when you go to gather the crop, there is only a little grain. And when you brought the grain home, I sent a wind to blow it all away. Why? Says the Lord of hosts.

Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.

Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.

God is saying that because the Jews have neglected building the temple, God has not blessed them with good rain and crops for food.



The 2nd year of King Darius, the 6th month, the 24th day...

Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people, saying: "I am with you," says the Lord.

So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and worked on the house of the Lord, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.

That's the end of the first message or sermon from Haggai. Who can tell me in their own words, what happened?

We heard the phrase "the Lord of hosts" a lot. What do you think that means? (Literally from the Hebrew it means "Lord of heavenly armies") What do you think of when you hear "heavenly armies"? I think of Elisha in 2 Kings 6...



Tell while top is folded:

The king of Syria sent his army to surround the city where Elisha was living. When Elisha's servant saw the soldiers surrounding the city, he cried out in fear, "Oh master, what shall we do?" Elisha answered: "Do not be afraid for there are more with us than with the Syrians." The servant didn't understand so Elisha prayed, "Oh Lord, open the eyes of my servant that he might see."

Unfold top:

Then the servant saw the mountains full of horses and chariots of fire to protect Elisha.

This is the heavenly host that God is Lord of. Romans 8:31 says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

The 2nd year of King Darius, the 7th month, the 21st day...



Haggai,
the prophet



Joshua,
the high priest



Zerubbabel,
the governor of Judah



All the people

In the 2nd year of King Darius, in the 7th month, on the 21st day...

(so about a month after the end of the first message)

The word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet saying:

“Speak now to Zerubbabel the governor of Judah and to Joshua the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying:



'Who of you is left who saw this temple in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?

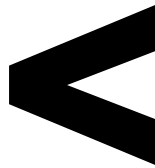
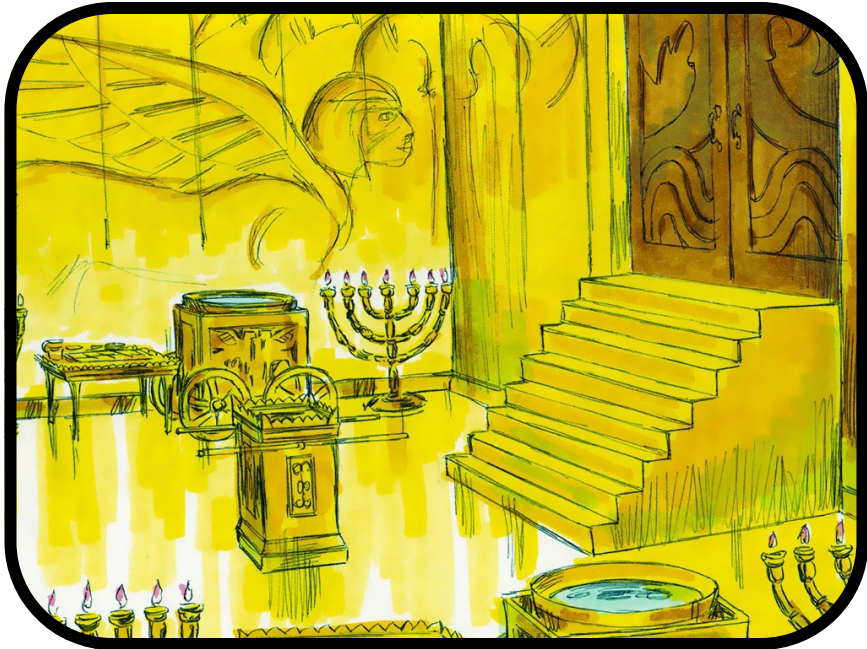
But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' says the Lord of hosts. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt so my Spirit is with you. Do not fear.'

The first part of this message is: The second temple is not going to be as magnificent as the first physical temple. But, do not fear, be strong and work hard because God is with them like He was when they came out of Egypt.

How was God's spirit with them with they left Egypt? What did they follow in the wilderness?



Remember how God's spirit appeared as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night in the wilderness? God is reminding the Jews that His spirit is with them. God is not going to leave them.



Back to the 2nd message:

For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, (*what do all nations desire? The Messiah and Salvation*) and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' says the Lord of hosts. 'The glory of this latter temple will be greater than the glory of the former temple,' says the Lord of hosts. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' says the Lord of hosts.'

The second part of this message is talking about the time when Jesus dies and heaven and earth will be shaken. The Old Law and Temple will be done away with and there will be a New Law and Temple. God is comparing the physical temple of silver and gold with the future spiritual temple, the church, which will be established in the New Testament. God is saying that the glory of the church is greater than a physical temple of gold. And Hebrew 12:26-28 refers back to this passage and tells us that we have received a kingdom which can not be shaken.

The 2nd year of King Darius, the 9th month, the 24th day...



Haggai,
the prophet



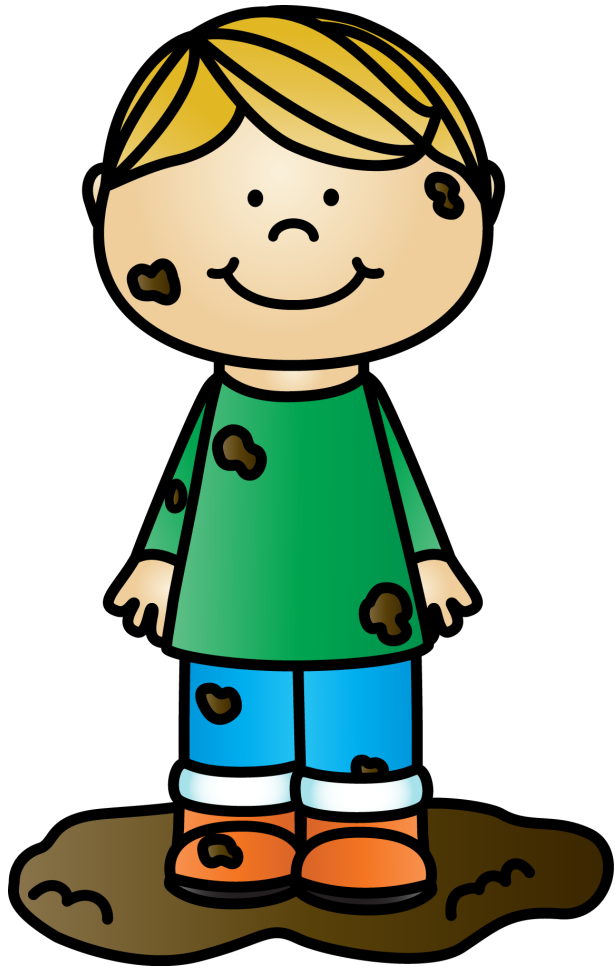
Joshua,
the high priest

In the 2nd year of King Darius, in the 9th month, on the 24th day...

(2 months after the second message)

The word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet saying:

“The says the Lord of hosts: 'Now ask the priests what the law says,

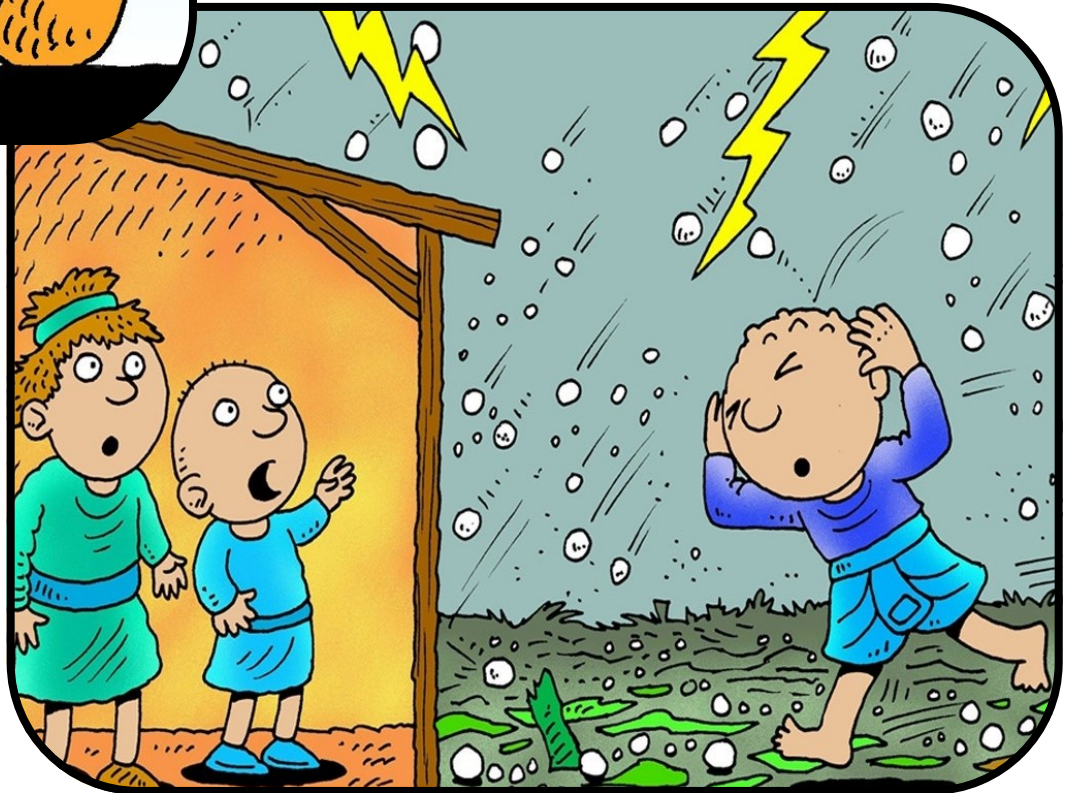


Then Haggai said, "Whoever touches a dead body will become unclean. Now if they touch anything else, will it also become unclean?"

The priests answered, "Yes, it will become unclean."

Then Haggai said, "This is what the Lord God said: 'This is also true for the people of this nation. They were not pure and holy before me. So anything they did with their hands and anything they offered at the altar became unclean.

In other words, their sin has made them unclean and it is contaminating or polluting their worship. What were some sins the Israelites had done? (married foreign wives, worshipped idols)



Now consider how things were before you began working on the Lord's Temple. People wanted 20 measures of grain, but there were only 10 measures in the pile. People wanted to get 50 jars of wine from the wine vat, but there were only 20. That was because I punished you. I sent the diseases that killed your plants and the hail that destroyed the things you made with your hands. I did this, but still you did not come to me.' This is what the Lord said.



'Consider now from this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, when the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid. Consider it: Is there any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. But from this day on I will bless you.'"

This is the end of the third message from Haggai. God is asking the Jews to "consider their ways" again...their sins have polluted their worship and God has punished them by not blessing their crops. But now that they are rebuilding the temple, God will bless them again. We need to "consider" our hearts when we come to worship. Are we here with pure, clean hearts?

The 2nd year of King Darius, the 9th month, the 24th day...



Haggai,
the prophet



Zerubbabel,
the governor of Judah

In the 2nd year of King Darius, in the 9th month, on the 24th day...

(same day as the third message)

The word of the Lord again came to Haggai the prophet saying:

“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah saying:



'I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.
I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms.
I will destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations.
I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and
their riders will go down, every one by the sword of another.'

'In that day,' says the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel,
the son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make
you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,' says the Lord of hosts.

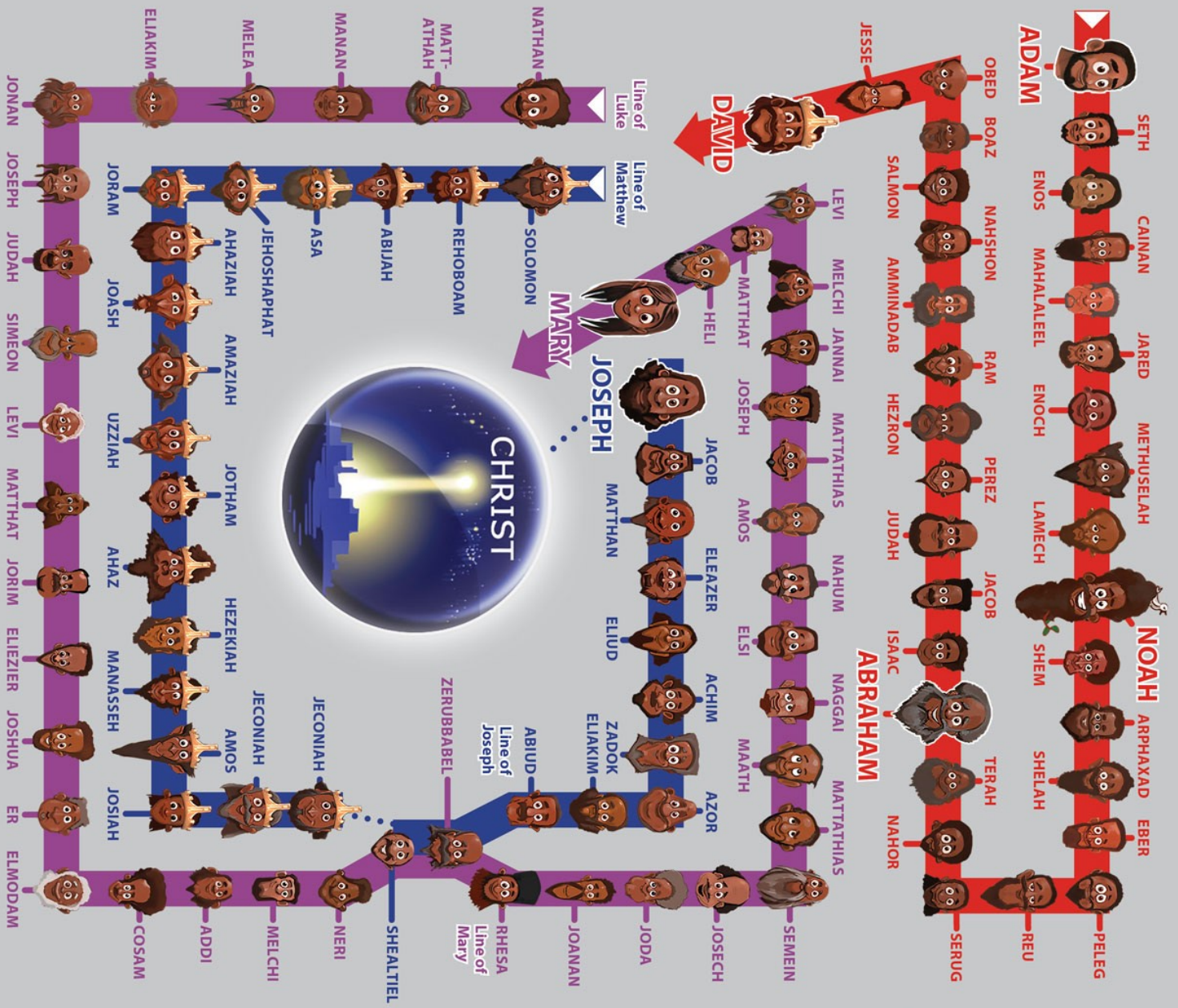
*That's the end of Haggai and his 4th message. God is describing
how He will overthrow the kingdoms of earth...remember
Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the rock that destroys the statue?
The statue was the different kingdoms and what did the rock
represent? (Jesus or the church)*

*At the end of this message God is comparing Zerubbabel to a signet
ring. Does anyone know what a signet ring is?*



A signet ring is something usually worn by royalty. It's a symbol of authority, usually having the family crest or seal on it. A long time ago, kings would seal their messages with wax and then stamp their signet ring or seal into the wax. That certified that the message was truly from the king.

God said that Zerubbabel would act like a signet ring. Jesus, being a descendent of Zerubbabel, is another stamp of approval for Jesus's authority. Every prophecy that Jesus fulfills certifies that Jesus is truly the Messiah.



So God is explaining to Zerubbabel that God has chosen him to be an ancestor of Jesus. And in Matthew 1:12-13 and Luke 3:23-38, Zerubbabel is listed as a descendant of David and an ancestor of Jesus.

These verses fulfill the prophecy in Haggai when God told Zerubbabel that Jesus, the Messiah, is going to come from his descendants. It's just one more "stamp of approval" like a signet ring that Jesus is truly the Messiah.