HAGAI.

The period of Hagai's Prophetic Ministry was about 520 B.C.

1 In the second year of King Darius in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the Command of the EVER-LIVING came by the medium of HAGAI the Preacher to ZERUBABEL-ben-SHALATHIEL, Governor of Judah, and to JOSHUA-ben-JHOZADAK, the High Priest, to say:— 2 "Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS! This people say, 'It is not the time to go to the House of the EVER-LIVING to rebuild it!'" 3 The command of the EVER-LIVING, however, came by means of HAGAI the Preacher to say:— 4 "Is it a time for you to rest in your winnowed houses,—when this HOUSE is in ashes? So now," thus says the LORD OF HOSTS, "fix your hearts on your proceedings. You sow much, but it produces little. You eat and are not satisfied. You drink, but are not quenched. You clothe, but are not warm. And the workman earns for a purse with holes!" 7 Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS. "Fix your hearts on your proceedings! 8 Go up to the hill and bring timber and build the HOUSE, and I shall be pleased and honoured by it," says the EVER-LIVING. 9 "You went for much, and found little; you brought that home, but I blew it away!—Why?"—the LORD OF HOSTS asks, "Why?—Because My House is a heap of ashes, while you all run to your own homes! 10 Therefore the skies withhold dew from you, and the earth withholds her produce. So I proclaimed a drought upon the land, and upon the hills, and upon the corn, and upon the wine, and upon the oil, and upon whatever grows from the ground, and upon man, and upon beast, and upon the works of your hands." 12 Then ZERUBABEL-ben-SHALATHIEL and JOSHUA-ben-JHOZADAK the High Priest, and all the fragments of the People, consequently listened to the voice of their EVER-LIVING GOD, and to the address of HAGAI the Preacher, which their EVER-LIVING GOD had sent to him. And the People paid reverence to the EVER-LIVING.

Then HAGAI the Messenger of the 13 EVER-LIVING spoke about the Messages of the EVER-LIVING to the People, and said,—"The LIFE says I am with you." The EVER-LIVING also roused the 14 spirit of ZERUBABEL-ben-SHALATHIEL, the Governor of Judah, and the spirit of JOSHUA-ben-JHOZADAK, the High Priest, and the spirit of all the fragments of the People, and they went and did work at the HOUSE of the LORD OF HOSTS, their GOD, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of the King Darius.

On the seventeenth, of the first 2 month the command of the EVER-LIVING came by means of HAGAI the Preacher, to say:— 3 "Speak now to ZERUBABEL-ben-2 SHALATHIEL, Governor of Judah, and JOSHUA-ben-JHOZADAK the High Priest, and the fragments of the People, and ask:—"Who remains amongst you who 3 saw this house in its former splendour?—And how does it look now? Is it not as nothing in your sight?—So 4 now support ZERUBABEL," says the EVER-LIVING, "and support JOSHUA-ben-JHOZADAK the High Priest, and support all the people of the country," says the EVER-LIVING, "and work, for I am with you," says the LORD OF HOSTS,—"with the promise I made to you on bringing you out from the MITZPEM. My Spirit also stands 5 amongst you. Fear not!"—For thus 6 says the LORD OF HOSTS;
Song of the Restoration.

"Once again, in a little while I will shake the Heavens,
And the Earth, and Sea, and the Desert,
And when I shake all the Nations,
The Desired of All Nations will come,
And I will fill this House with splendour,"
Declares the LORD OF HOSTS.

"The silver is Mine, and the Gold is Mine,"
Declares the LORD OF HOSTS,
"And the splendour of the House be more,
Of this, the last, than was the first!"
Declares the LORD OF HOSTS,
"And from this Place I will give Peace,"
Declares the LORD OF HOSTS!

A Question of Right and Wrong.

10 On the fourteenth, of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the command of the EVER-LIVING came by the means of Hagai the Preacher to say;—
11 Thus says the LORD OF HOSTS,
"Ask the Priests about the Law,
and say, 'If a man carries consecrated food in the skirts of his robe, and his robe touches, either pottage or wine, or oil, or any kind of provisions,—will they become consecrated ?'"
And the Priests answered and said "No!"
13 Then Hagai asked, "If a defiled person touches any of those will they become defiled?"
The Priests replied, "They would be defiled."
14 Then Hagai answered and exclaimed,
"So is this Nation, and so is this People, before Me," says the EVER-LIVING, "and so is all the work of their hands; and what they present is defiled!—Therefore now reflect in your hearts from this day and forwards;—Before the time when a stone was turned upon a stone to rebuild the House of the Temple of the EVER-LIVING,—When you used to go to a heap for twenty, there were only ten; going to the cellar for fifty drafts, there were only twenty!—
17 Because I struck you with blight, and mildew, and hail, on all the work of your hands,—yet you came not to Me," says the EVER-LIVING.
"Reflect in your hearts,—from this 18 day and forwards—from the twenty-fourth day of the month;—from the day when you laid the foundation of the Temple of the EVER-LIVING;—reflect in your hearts.—The grain is not at present in the granary, or at present the vine, and fig, and pomegranate, and olive trees have not borne;—from this day I will bless you!"

A Message to Zerubbabel.

The command of the LORD came a second time to Hagai, on the twenty-fourth of the month to say;—
"Speak to Zerubbabel the governor 21 of Judah and say;—'I will shake the Heavens and the Earth, and will overthrow the Throne of Kingdoms, and destroy the strength of the Kingdoms of the Heathen; and overturn the Charioteer and his chariot, and throw down the horsemen and charioteers every one by the sword of his messmate!'—
"In that day," says the LORD OF HOSTS, "I will take Zerubbabel—ben-Shalathiel, My servant," the EVER-LIVING declares, "and make you like a seal-ring, for I have chosen you," says the EVER-LIVING.

End of the Book of the Prophet Hagai.