

Worship Illustration: Storybook
The Love Sub

Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah—Malachi

Unit 9, Lesson 46

## **Zechariah and Haggai**

Zechariah 1:3; 4:6; 5:1-4; Haggai 1:7-9; 2:4, 9, 23

"Uncle, are they ready?" Shiloh asked anxiously, as he peered down into the Time Travel Lab. "The seats are filled and the crowd is starting to get impatient."

"I will hit the button for transport just as soon as I get this last coordinate fixed," Woodstock answered. He was staring intently at the screen.

Moments later, the computer announced, "Time travel alert! Time travel alert!" Two men, wearing tight spandex wrestling costumes, dropped down the tube. They stood up and waved to Woodstock. Moments later, Shiloh was leading them through the corridors of the Love Sub.

"Are you ready to do the show?" Shiloh asked.

"We've been practicing every day," the man in the purple and green costume answered.

"With the flying scroll," the man in the gold and green costume added.

Shiloh nodded and waved for them to stop behind a huge metal door. "Well, we've invited everyone we know. We can't wait to see your show!"

A male announcer's voice echoed from the other side of the metal door, "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the main event! W.W.E., the Wild World of Evangelism, is proud to present all the way from 520 B.C., the reigning tag team prophesy champions! Give it up for Haggai and Zechariah, the Power Prophets! Let's get ready to rumble!"

The metal door slid open. Haggai in his purple and green costume and Zechariah in his gold and green costume ran out into a large theater as loud music played and people clapped and cheered. In the middle of the floor, a raised stage was rimmed by ropes to form a wrestling ring. The Power Panel was set in the middle of the ring. Rising up on either side of the room were stadium seats packed with people.

Haggai and Zechariah ran to the center of the ring. After bumping chests and flexing their muscles, Haggai spoke to the crowd. "I am Haggai! God called me after King Cyrus gave Zerubbabel 'the Govenator' permission to take God's people from Babylon back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple."

Zechariah stepped forward. "And I'm Zechariah! God called me, too! He gave me messages and visions for the people who were sent back to Jerusalem."

"Is that when you saw that flying squirrel?" Haggai asked.

"Scroll! It was a scroll and it was big!" Zechariah corrected.

"And it flew!" Haggai added. Several in the crowd whistled and cheered.

"Yeah, see God gave me a vision of a scroll like this," Zechariah held up two fancy sticks with paper rolled between them. "but it was the size of this room. On one side it said, 'Do not steal' and on the other side, it said 'Do not lie." The crowd gasped as Zechariah let go of the scroll and it continued to hover in place.

"Do not steal' and 'Do not lie' are both great messages!" Haggai posed next to the scroll, flexing his muscles. After a moment, he continued. "So, back in Jerusalem, they were fixing up their own houses—"

"Before they rebuilt God's temple," Zechariah finished. "But, God wanted them to put Him first and rebuild His house first!"

"He wanted to make sure they got the message, so He sent two prophets!" Haggai said.

"That's right! The first Tag Team Prophets!" Zechariah announced. He and Haggai bumped chests. Then, they raised their arms over their heads in a sign of victory. The crowd cheered.

"God sent me with a message for Zerubbabel," Haggai said, looking around. "Oh, find me a Bible and I will show you the message!"

"I don't have a Bible," Zechariah grinned, "but we do have a scroll! Oh, flying scroll, point us to God's Word!" The scroll turned so one end was pointing at the Power Panel which contained the Power Source. Zechariah pulled the Bible from the box and held it over his head. The crowd stood to their feet and cheered with delight.

"All right! Tag me in!" Haggai yelled. They gave each other a high five as Zechariah handed him the Bible, then stepped to the side of the ring. Haggai found Haggai 1:7 in the Bible and jumped up and down with full energy and excitement as he read aloud, "Now, this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.""

As the red warning lights flashed and the siren blasted throughout the theater, Zechariah ran a circle around the ring, stopping long enough to slap palms with Haggai. "High five! Yeah! Good warning!"

"God was warning them to make right choices. Stop wrestling with wrong choices and let God pin your heart to the mat!" Haggai explained as he jogged to the edge of ring. He and Zechariah switched places again and Zechariah took the Bible. He flipped quickly to Zechariah 1:3a and read in a strong voice, "Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Return to Me," declares the Lord Almighty ..."

"That's the goods! That's the choice! Tag me in!" The choice bell rang as Haggai jogged toward the center and slapped hands with Zechariah. Zechariah gave him the Bible and trotted to the ropes. "You see, God was good enough to give His people a choice!" Haggai stated. "He told them, 'Come back to Me, rebuild My temple."

"Preach it, brother! And, God was good enough to give them a promise!" Zechariah called from the ropes. He jumped up and down. "Tag me in. Tag me in!" After exchanging palm slaps and the Bible, Zechariah read Zechariah 1:3b, "Return to Me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you ..."

"Says the Lord Almighty!" both prophets yelled out as the green lights flashed and the crowd erupted into loud cheers. Haggai and Zechariah trotted around the ring in opposite directions then met back in the center for another pro-wrestler style chest bump.

As the crowd quieted, Haggai said, "He even promised the new temple would be more glorious than the old one and it would be a place of peace. Now, you might be wondering, 'How are we gonna' get this place of peace?"

"Oh, I know! I know!" Zechariah yelled. "An angel came and woke me up!"

"Say what?" Haggai and the crowd gasped. "An angel?"

"An angel of the Lord!" Zechariah nodded and read Zechariah 4:6b. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty!"

"Yeah! Hoo-wah!" The prophets high fived each other and waved the Bible toward the crowd. The crowd went wild. "That's the goods! That's the power!"

"That's the Spirit of the Living God! And only by His power can we change our ways!" Haggai yelled over the roar of the crowd.

As the room grew quiet, Zechariah continued, "But, the good news is He gives each and every one of us His power. He helps us make good and wise choices."

"You've got a temple inside of you." Haggai ran around the ring, his fingers pointing at the audience. "Why don't you rebuild it and ask God to be the reigning champ of your heart?!"

"Amen!" Zechariah waved from the center of the ring. "Until our next event, I'm Zechariah."

Haggai bowed. "I'm Haggai, and we are the Prophecy Tag Team Champions ..."

"The Power Prophets!" they finished together.

"We're here to remind you," Zechariah began, "that no matter where you are in time ..."

Haggai pointed to the audience. "Say it with us!"

"God is good all the time!" the prophets finished with the crowd. The crowd rose to its feet and cheered wildly as they watched the men leave the stage and exit out the theater.