

CHAPTER 19, THE RETURN HOME

Journal your answers to these questions as you read through the chapter this week. You may wish to read one day and journal the next, or spread the questions over the whole week.

DAY 1

1. If you had been an Israelite exile in Babylon when King Cyrus permitted your return, would you have returned to the Promised Land or would you have remained in Babylon? Why?
2. How had the LORD's 70-year discipline affected the people of Israel? Have you experienced personal change as a result of the LORD's discipline?

DAY 2

1. What did Israel's enemies do to undermine their efforts to rebuild their temple (p. 265)? When have you experienced a similar situation wherein someone tried to undermine something important to you? How did you respond?
2. Read pages 266-267 and list the reasons the temple work had ceased. Do you struggle with misplaced priorities? What are some ways you can reprioritize your life?
3. Some were disappointed that the new temple was no match to the glory and beauty of Solomon's temple. How can such comparisons be dangerous? According to Haggai's second message (p. 267-268), what is the remedy for their – and our – discouragement?

DAY 3

1. Haggai the Prophet encouraged the people to get back to work on the temple building project that had stalled for sixteen years (p. 267). Are there areas of your spiritual growth that have stalled out?
2. Review Zechariah's message of hope and promise. What did God promise the faithful Israelites He would do? List the ways they were to respond to God's grace (p. 269). How do you rate in these areas?