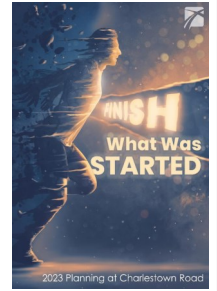


As we enter the final quarter of the year, our theme, "Finish what was started," takes us to a study of how the Old Testament finished.



The Bible story, starting with God's choosing of Abraham and His promise to build a large nation is shown through the conquest of the promise land through the hands of Joshua. As that nation was governed through the judges, the people faltered. Ruled by kings, the nation splinters and divides.

The promise that God made to Abraham remains, that through Abraham all the nations of the earth will be blessed. Unfaithful, idolatrous, and wicked as the nation became, God kept His promise. Prophets were sent to teach and warn, but the people refused to listen. Finally, late in the Old Testament story, God sent His people to Babylon for a generation. God wasn't finished with them.

This series of lessons, takes place after the Babylonian captivity. There remained some things to finish.

### Understanding the late history of Judah:

1. What prophetic books deal with the Babylonian captivity?

October: Temple Rebuilt  
 November: Walls Rebuilt  
 December: Hearts rebuilt

2. How long was Judah in captivity?

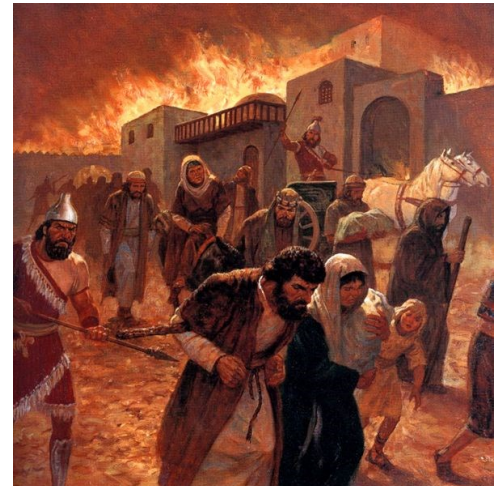
- passage:
- dates:

How did God's people get out of captivity?

3. Chronologically, what are the last books of the O.T.?

4. What did the Babylonians do to Jerusalem?

5. While Judah was in Babylonian captivity, what was the religious atmosphere for God's people?



### A. There were three waves of exiles that return to Jerusalem

Led by Sheshbazzar (538 B.C.) - about 50,000 returned

Led by the priest Zerubbabel and Jeshua (525 B.C.) - about 1,800 returned

Led by Nehemiah (465-424 B.C.)

- There was a work that wasn't \_\_\_\_\_
- The work came with incredible \_\_\_\_\_
  - opposition from the \_\_\_\_\_
  - troubled \_\_\_\_\_ on the inside
- There was an understanding that the work had to be done God's \_\_\_\_\_

### stop the temple building

- They want a \_\_\_\_\_ in building the temple (Ezra 4:1-2)
- They \_\_\_\_\_ the workers (Ezra 4:4-5)
- They write \_\_\_\_\_ to stop the work (Ezra 4:6, 12-16, 24; 6:7)

### B. The Message of Haggai: \_\_\_\_\_ your Ways

1. The house of God is not completed (1:4-11)

- They have lived a generation without the temple
- We can get accustomed to doing without
  - God promised to help them (2:3-9)

This temple was smaller in size than the first one (Ezra 3:10-13)

2. There are three attempts the enemy makes to

Who are the enemies of God's church?

What attempts do they use to stop the kingdom from growing?

How do leaders keep the people safe?