



# a word of hope for a people who'd failed

- the people had sinned
- their land was gone
- their cities were razed
- their hopes were dashed

### a word of grace for the glory of God

"for the display of His splendour" (v.3)

"all who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed" (v.9)

- <sup>3</sup> The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying:
- 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.
- <sup>4</sup> I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.
- Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful.
- <sup>5</sup> Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit.

#### less than it had been -

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

Haggai 2.<sup>3</sup>

#### more than it had been -

<sup>5</sup> Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

<sup>6</sup> And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

not-

- subservience
- domination

but-

co-operation

### the nature of gospel work

- flocks
- fields
- fruit

<sup>5</sup> Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

### the calling of Israel

<sup>6</sup> And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God ..

#### the inclusion of the nations

<sup>6</sup> .. you will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.