The purpose of the Book of Haggai (name means “Festival”) was to stimulate the lethargic, procrastinating leaders & people of Judah to recognize their spiritual responsibilities and rebuild the temple. His task was to assist the Israelites in seeing where their hearts and priorities really lie. He urges them to do what they should have done from the start: rebuild the temple with a willing, reverent heart. To these admonitions, he added the promise of God to be with them. Within this promise, the people could return to their first enthusiasm & carry out God’s purposes for them. Only then could their worship be joyful and sincere. In sum, these people deluded themselves into thinking that holiness is gained by association with holy things (vv. 11-12) & failed to consider that unholy associations rendered them unclean (1:13-14). Rather, Haggai calls on them to align their will with God’s will by turning to God Himself...who is with them (1:13). By choosing to make God the center of their lives, the Lord could Himself remain in their presence.