

Haggai 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.

Analysis

Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit (אֶל-כֵּן אֵלֵיכֶם בָּלְאוּ שָׁמַיִם מִטָּל וְהָאָרֶץ כָּלְאָה יְבוּלָהּ / al-ken aleikhem kalu shamayim mittal vеха'aretz kal'ah yevulah)—God explains the mechanism of His discipline. **Therefore** (אֶל-כֵּן/al-ken) connects consequence to cause (v.9): because they neglected His house, He withheld agricultural blessing. **Is stayed** (בָּלְאוּ/kalu) means restrained, withheld, held back—active divine intervention preventing natural provision.

Heaven... stayed from dew (שָׁמַיִם מִטָּל/shamayim mittal)—in Israel's climate, dew was essential for summer crops when rain ceased. Without dew, plants withered. **Earth... stayed from her fruit** (הָאָרֶץ כָּלְאָה/ha'aretz kal'ah yevulah)—even when they planted, the ground refused its normal productivity. This directly fulfills covenant curses in Deuteronomy 28:23-24: "The sky over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron."

This verse demonstrates God's sovereignty over nature. He controls weather, seasons, and crop yields. Materialistic worldviews assume prosperity results from human effort alone, but Scripture consistently affirms that God blesses or withholds according to covenant relationship. Paul echoes this: "God... gives you richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17)—all provision ultimately comes from God's hand.

Historical Context

Archaeological and historical records indicate that the late sixth century BC (520 BC when Haggai prophesied) saw agricultural difficulties in Judah. Drought, poor harvests, and economic hardship characterized the period. Haggai interprets these circumstances theologically: they weren't random natural disasters but divine discipline for spiritual unfaithfulness. When the people repented and resumed building, conditions eventually improved—demonstrating the connection between obedience and blessing.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's sovereignty over natural provision (weather, health, crops, economy) affect how you view both blessings and hardships?
2. In what ways might God use material frustration or limitation to expose spiritual priorities and prompt repentance?
3. What is the relationship between faithfulness to God and experiencing His provision—and how do you avoid both prosperity gospel thinking and materialistic self-sufficiency?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|---------|----|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| עַל | כִּן | עָלֶיךָ | הַ | כָּלָאֵה | שָׁמַיִם | מִטֶּל | וְהָאֶרֶץ |
| H5921 | H3651 | H5921 | | is stayed | Therefore the heaven | from dew | and the earth |
| | | | | H3607 | H8064 | H2919 | H776 |

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|------------------|-----------------------|
| כָּלָאֵה | יְבוּלָהּ: |
| is stayed | from her fruit |
| H3607 | H2981 |

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:35 (Parallel theme): When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them:

1 Kings 17:1 (Parallel theme): And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

Leviticus 26:19 (Parallel theme): And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

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