

Haggai 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

Analysis

And I called for a drought upon the land (עַל־הָאָרֶץ/ha'aretz)—God explicitly claims responsibility: **I called** (קָרָא/kara) for this drought (חֲרֵב/chorev, dryness, desolation). This wasn't impersonal fate or bad luck but personal, purposeful divine action. The comprehensive scope follows: **upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands**—eight areas of impact covering agriculture, livestock, human effort, and natural resources.

This list echoes covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:15-24, 38-42) that God promised would come if Israel forsook Him. **Corn** (דָּגָן/dagan, grain), **new wine** (תִּירוֹשׁ/tirosh), and **oil** (יִצְחָר/yitzhar) represent staple crops essential for survival. **Men** and **cattle** (בָּקָר/bakar) together encompass human and animal life. **All the labour of the hands** (כָּל־יְגִיעַ/kol-yegia khapayim) indicates that human effort itself was rendered futile—not for lack of trying but because God withheld blessing.

Why would God do this? Not cruelty but covenant love. Discipline proves relationship (Hebrews 12:5-11). God could have abandoned them to their self-focused lives, allowing them to drift into permanent spiritual apathy. Instead, He

used hardship to wake them up, expose their idolatry (self-worship masked as pragmatism), and call them back to Himself. Hosea 2:6-7 describes similar discipline: God blocks Israel's path with thorns so she'll return to her first husband.

Historical Context

The comprehensive nature of this drought indicates sustained agricultural failure affecting every sector of the economy. This wasn't one bad harvest but a pattern of futility over the sixteen years they neglected the temple. The people likely rationalized it as normal post-exilic hardship, but Haggai reveals divine intention: God was speaking through circumstances, calling them to repentance and renewed obedience.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you discern when difficulties are general trials of life versus specific divine discipline meant to expose sin or redirect priorities?
2. What does God's willingness to discipline those He loves reveal about the nature of saving relationship versus mere religious affiliation?
3. In what areas might God be allowing frustration or futility to prevent you from settling into comfortable self-focused living?

Interlinear Text

וְאָקַרְתִּי אֶת הָרָבִעַל עַל הָאָרֶץ וְעַל הַהָרִים	וְאָקַרְתִּי אֶת הָרָבִעַל	עַל הָאָרֶץ	וְעַל הַהָרִים
And I called for a drought upon the land and upon the mountains	H7121	H2721	H5921 H776 H5921 H2022
וְעַל הַדָּגָן וְעַל הַתֵּינִיכָה וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל	וְעַל הַדָּגָן	וְעַל הַתֵּינִיכָה	וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל
and upon the corn and upon the new wine and upon the oil	H5921 H1715	H5921 H8492	H5921 H3323
וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל	וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל	וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל	וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל
and upon that which the ground bringeth forth and upon that which the ground	H5921 H834 H3318	H5921 H127	H5921
וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל	וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל	וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל	וְעַל הַשֶּׁמֶל
and upon men and upon cattle and upon all the labour	H5921 H120	H5921 H929	H5921 H3605 H3018
כַּפָּיִם:	כַּפָּיִם:		
of the hands	H3709		

Additional Cross-References

Haggai 2:17 (Parallel theme): I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.

Deuteronomy 28:22 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.

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.

2 Kings 8:1 (Parallel theme): Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn

wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.

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