

Haggai 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.

Analysis

Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD (וַיֹּאמֶר חֲגַי מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה בְּמַלְאָכוֹת יְהוָה/וַיֹּמֶר חֲגַי מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה YHWH bemal'akhut YHWH la'am lemor ani ittekhem ne'um-YHWH)—Haggai is called **the LORD'S messenger** (מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה/mal'akh YHWH), the same word used for angels. Prophets are divine messengers, delivering **the LORD'S message** (מַלְאָכוֹת יְהוָה/mal'akhut YHWH)—not their own ideas but God's authoritative word.

I am with you (אֲנִי אִתְּכֶם/ani ittekhem)—this simple promise is the heart of the covenant. God's presence is the ultimate blessing, surpassing material prosperity, political power, or physical security. This promise echoes throughout Scripture: to Isaac (Genesis 26:24), Jacob (Genesis 28:15), Moses (Exodus 3:12), Joshua (Joshua 1:5, 9), Gideon (Judges 6:12), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:8), and ultimately in Christ—Immanuel, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23), whose final promise was "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

The timing is crucial: God speaks this encouragement immediately after they obey (v.12). Once they demonstrated repentance through action, God assured them of His presence for the work ahead. This pattern appears throughout Scripture—obedience precedes blessing, not as merit-earning but as positioning oneself to receive what God freely gives.

Historical Context

The returned exiles faced enormous challenges: limited resources, opposition from neighbors, economic hardship, and the daunting task of rebuilding. They needed more than human encouragement—they needed divine assurance. God's promise "I am with you" provided courage, strength, and perseverance to complete the difficult work over the next four years (completed in 516 BC).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise "I am with you" address fears, discouragements, and obstacles you face in obeying His call?
2. In what ways is God's presence the ultimate resource, more valuable than perfect circumstances, abundant resources, or guaranteed success?
3. How does Jesus as Immanuel—God physically present with humanity—fulfill and exceed all Old Testament promises of God's presence?

Interlinear Text

לָאֵם רַ	חַגַּי י	מַלְאֲכִי	יְהוָה:	בְּמִלְאָכִי וְ	יְהוָה:
Then spake	Haggai	messenger	in the LORD'S	message	in the LORD'S
H559	H2292	H4397	H3068	H4400	H3068
לְעַם	לָאֵם רַ	אֲנִי י	אֲתֶכֶם	נֵאֻם	יְהוָה:
unto the people	Then spake	H589	H854	I am with you saith	in the LORD'S
H5971	H559			H5002	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 46:11 (References Lord): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Romans 8:31 (Parallel theme): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Malachi 3:1 (References Lord): Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:4 (References Lord): Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

Psalms 46:7 (References Lord): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Jeremiah 15:20 (References Lord): And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 30:11 (References Lord): For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will

I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org