

Haggai 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

Analysis

And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel... and the spirit of Joshua... and the spirit of all the remnant of the people (ישע רוח אֶת־רוּחָם) vaya'ar YHWH et-ruach Zerubbavel... ve'et-ruach Yehoshua... ve'et-ruach kol she'erit ha'am)—the verb **יעור** (ur) in Hiphil stem means to rouse, awaken, stir up, incite to action. God Himself energized their spirits (רוּחָם/ruach), awakening motivation, courage, and determination that had lain dormant for sixteen years.

This verse reveals divine sovereignty in conversion and sanctification. The people heard God's word (v.12), obeyed, and worked—yet the text emphasizes that God stirred their spirits to enable that response. Repentance is both human responsibility and divine gift. Philippians 2:12-13 captures this mystery: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." God commands obedience and sovereignly produces the willing heart that obeys.

And they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God (וַיָּבֹא יְשֻׁבֹּו מִלְאָכָה בְּבֵית־יְהוָה צְבָאֹת אֱלֹהֵיכֶם) vayavo'u vaya'asu melakhah beveit-YHWH Tzeva'ot Eloheihem)—stirred spirits resulted in concrete action. They **came** (בָּא/

bo) and **did work** (הָשַׁעַת/asah), laboring in the house of **the LORD of hosts** (הָרַבָּאָת/YHWH Tzeva'ot), sovereign commander of heaven and earth.

Historical Context

Within three weeks of Haggai's first message (compare v.1 and v.15), the entire community was mobilized for construction. This rapid response demonstrates the power of God's Spirit working through His word. What had seemed impossible for sixteen years became reality in less than a month when God stirred hearts to obedience. The second temple was completed four years later (516 BC), fulfilling God's purposes despite initial discouragement.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God "stirs up" willing spirits for obedience affect how you pray for yourself and others regarding spiritual responsiveness?
2. What is the relationship between divine sovereignty (God stirring spirits) and human responsibility (people obeying and working)—and how do both realities coexist?
3. In what areas of obedience do you need God to stir your spirit, awakening motivation, courage, and energy that feels dormant?

Interlinear Text

שָׁלְתִיא לְ בֶן זְרַבְבָּל רְウִם אַת יְהוָה הַיְלֵד אֲתָא עַר
stirred up And the LORD H853 and the spirit H7307 of Zerubbabel H2216 the son H1121 of Shealtiel H7597

יְהוֹצֵדָק בֶן יְהוֹשָׁעַ רְウִם אַת יְהוָדָה פָּמָת
governor of Judah H853 and the spirit H7307 of Joshua H3091 the son H1121 of Josedech H3087

בָּשָׁמְךָ כָּל שְׁאֵר יְהוָה רְウִם אַת בָּקָר וְלִבְכָּה
priest the high H853 and the spirit H7307 of all the remnant H3605 of the people H5971

צָבָא וָתְהִלָּה יְהוָה בָּבִית מֶלֶךְ הַיְמָן וַיַּעֲשֵׂה אָוֹן
and they came and did H6213 work H4399 in the house H1004 And the LORD H3068 of hosts H6635

אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
their God
H430

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 36:22 (Spirit): Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Hebrews 13:21 (Parallel theme): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Ezra 1:1 (Spirit): Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Ezra 1:5 (Spirit): Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.

Haggai 1:1 (References Lord): In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

Haggai 2:21 (Parallel theme): Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;

Nehemiah 4:6 (Parallel theme): So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

1 Chronicles 5:26 (Spirit): And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day.

Ezra 5:8 (References God): Be it known unto the king, that we went into the province of Judea, to the house of the great God, which is builded with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands.

Ezra 5:2 (References God): Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.