

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 (וַעֲרַךְ יְהוָה אֶת־רוּחַם וְאֶת־רוּחַ יְהוֹשֻעַ וְאֶת־רוּחַ כָּל שְׁאֵרֵי הָעָם וַעֲרַךְ יְהוָה אֶת־רוּחַ זְרֻבָבֶל/vaya'ar YHWH et-ruach Zerubbabel... ve'et-ruach Yehoshua... ve'et-ruach kol she'erit ha'am)—the verb עֹרֵךְ (ur) in Hiphil stem means to rouse, awaken, stir up, incite to action. God Himself energized their spirits (רוּחַ/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 (וַיָּבֹאוּ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ מְלָאכָה בְּבֵית־יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵיהֶם/vayavo'u vaya'asu melakhah beveit-YHWH Tzeva'ot Eloheihem)—stirred spirits resulted in concrete action. They **came** (בֹּא/ba).

bo) and **did work** (הָשָׂא/asah), laboring in the house of **the LORD of hosts** (יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת/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

וַיַּעַר	יְהוָה ה	אֶת	רוּחַ	זֶרְבָבֶל ל	בֶּן	שִׁלְתִּיאֵל ל
stirred up	And the LORD	H853	and the spirit	of Zerubbabel	the son	of Shealtiel
H5782	H3068		H7307	H2216	H1121	H7597
ת	יְהוּדָה ה	וְאֶת	רוּחַ	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	בֶּן	יְהוֹצָדָק
governor	of Judah	H853	and the spirit	of Joshua	the son	of Josedech
H6346	H3063		H7307	H3091	H1121	H3087
הַכֹּהֵן	הַגָּדוֹל וְ	וְאֶת	רוּחַ	כָּל	שְׂאֵר יֵת	הָעָם
priest	the high	H853	and the spirit	H3605	of all the remnant	of the people
H3548	H1419		H7307		H7611	H5971
וַיָּבֹאוּ	וַיַּעַשׂוּ	מְלָאכָה	בְּבֵית	יְהוָה ה	צָבָא וְ	
and they came	and did	work	in the house	And the LORD	of hosts	
H935	H6213	H4399	H1004	H3068	H6635	
אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:						
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.