

# Haggai 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

## Analysis

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The Hebrew phrase 'eth ha-am ha-zeh' ('this people,' not 'My people') signals divine displeasure with Israel's spiritual apathy. Their claim 'the time has not come' (lo eth bo) reveals rationalization—prioritizing personal comfort over God's house. This mirrors the human tendency to delay obedience when immediate sacrifice is required. Theologically, this demonstrates how unbelief manifests not through direct denial but through procrastination and misplaced priorities. The Israelites returned from exile 16 years earlier but ceased temple rebuilding due to opposition and self-interest, showing how easily spiritual fervor wanes when challenged.

## Historical Context

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Written circa 520 BC during Darius I's reign, Haggai addressed Jews who returned from Babylonian exile under Zerubbabel and Joshua. Temple rebuilding began in 536 BC but halted due to Samaritan opposition (Ezra 4:24). For 16 years the foundation lay unfinished while people built their own homes. Economic hardship (drought, crop failure) and fear of Persian authority contributed to their hesitancy. Haggai's prophecy, delivered in four messages over four months, galvanized the community to resume work, which they completed in 516 BC.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What areas of obedience am I postponing with rationalizations like 'the time is not right'?
2. How do I prioritize my comfort over God's purposes, and what would genuine reprioritization require?

## Interlinear Text

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כֹּה	אָמַר ו	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְ	אָמַר ו	הָעָם	
H3541	Thus speaketh	that the LORD'S	of hosts	Thus speaketh	This people	
	H559	H3068	H6635	H559	H5971	
הִזְה	אָמַר ו	ל א	עַתָּה	בֹּא	עַתָּה	בֵּית יֵת
H2088	Thus speaketh	H3808	The time	is not come	The time	house
	H559		H6256	H935	H6256	H1004
יְהוָה		לְהִבְנוֹת:				
that the LORD'S		should be built				
H3068		H1129				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 4:10** (Parallel theme): And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.