

Haggai 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet,
saying,

Analysis

Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet (וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה בְּיַד־חַגַּי /vayehi devar-YHWH beyad-Chagay hannavi)—the formulaic phrase 'word of the LORD came' (דְבַר־יְהוָה/devar-YHWH) authenticates prophetic authority. This isn't Haggai's opinion but divine revelation. The repetition of this phrase throughout the book (1:1, 1:3, 2:1, 2:10, 2:20) emphasizes that what follows is God's direct speech, demanding response.

The brief verse functions as transition between verse 2 (the people's excuse) and verse 4 (God's penetrating question). God doesn't remain silent when His people rationalize disobedience. He confronts through prophetic word, exposing self-deception and calling to account. This demonstrates God's covenant faithfulness—even in judgment, He speaks, warns, and calls His people to repentance rather than abandoning them to their folly.

Historical Context

Prophetic intervention was necessary because the returned exiles had settled into comfortable complacency. Sixteen years of neglecting God's house while building their own had become normalized. Without divine word breaking through, this pattern would continue indefinitely. Haggai's prophecy demonstrates God's active governance: when His people drift, He raises up prophets to confront, correct, and redirect. This pattern continues throughout Scripture—God never leaves His

people to stumble in darkness but provides revelation, correction, and guidance through His word.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God use His word to confront rationalizations and self-deception in believers' lives?
2. What role does prophetic confrontation (through Scripture, preaching, godly counsel) play in keeping Christians accountable?
3. How should believers respond when God's word exposes areas of compromise or misplaced priorities?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי	וַיָּבֹר	יְהוָה	בֵּינֵי	חַגִּי	הַנָּבִי יֵא	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	Then came the word	of the LORD	by	Haggai	the prophet	saying
	H1697	H3068	H3027	H2292	H5030	H559

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 5:1 (Prophecy): Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them.