

Haggai 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Analysis

Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways (יענה פה) / אמר יהוה צבאות שמו ללבכם על-דרכיכם ve'attah koh-amar YHWH Tzeva'ot simu levavkhem al-darkhekem)—after exposing their misplaced priorities (v.4), God commands self-examination. 'Consider' (simu / שמו ללבכם) literally means 'set your heart upon'—not casual thought but serious reflection. 'Your ways' (darkhekem / דרכיכם) encompasses their entire pattern of life: choices, priorities, values, actions.

The LORD of hosts (יהוה צבאות / YHWH Tzeva'ot)—this title emphasizes God's sovereignty over heavenly and earthly armies. The One commanding self-examination is the Almighty, not a peer offering suggestions. His authority demands response. The command to 'consider your ways' appears twice (v.5, v.7), framing the diagnosis of their futility (v.6). God first calls for self-examination, then provides analysis, then repeats the call—ensuring they cannot avoid honest assessment.

Historical Context

Self-examination was necessary because the people had grown accustomed to their situation. Sixteen years of neglecting the temple while pursuing personal prosperity had dulled spiritual sensitivity. They didn't recognize the connection between their futility (v.6) and their priorities (v.4). God's call to 'consider your ways' invited them to trace effects back to causes: their economic struggles

stemmed from spiritual disobedience. This principle operates throughout Scripture —prosperity divorced from obedience leads to emptiness (Deuteronomy 28, Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3:8-12). Jesus similarly warned against storing earthly treasures while neglecting heavenly treasure (Matthew 6:19-21).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to 'set your heart upon your ways'—to seriously examine your life patterns and priorities?
2. How might God be using frustration, dissatisfaction, or lack of fulfillment to prompt self-examination of spiritual priorities?
3. What areas of life do you avoid examining honestly, and what would it look like to invite God's scrutiny there?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמֹר	צְבָא	וְתִּהְעַת	הָ	כִּי	וְעַתָּה	הִ
H6258	H3541	Now therefore thus saith	H559	the	LORD	of hosts
				H3068		H6635
						H7760
לְבָבְךָ	מְ	לְבָבֵיכֶם:	עַל	לְבָבֵיכֶם:	עַל	לְבָבְךָ
H3824	H5921	your ways	H1870			

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 3:40 (References Lord): Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (Parallel theme): Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Haggai 1:7 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Luke 15:17 (Parallel theme): And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

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