

Haggai 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Analysis

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways (כה אמר ייְהוָה צְבָאֹת שְׁמָוֹן/koh amar YHWH Tzeva'ot simu levavkhem al-darkhekem)—God repeats His command from verse 5 with heightened emphasis. The repetition isn't redundant but insistent: self-examination is urgent. **Consider** (simu /שְׁמָוֹן לִבְבָכֶם) levavkhem), literally "set your heart upon," demands more than casual reflection—it requires honest, searching evaluation of life patterns, priorities, and the consequences of choices.

The phrase frames both diagnosis (v.6) and prescription (v.8). Between these repeated calls to self-examination, God explains their futility (v.6) and then commands specific action (v.8). The rhetorical structure forces them to connect cause and effect: their economic struggles aren't random bad luck but divine discipline for neglecting God's house. This pattern appears throughout Scripture—God uses consequences to expose misplaced priorities and prompt repentance (Deuteronomy 28, Amos 4:6-11).

Historical Context

The people needed this repeated exhortation because sixteen years of rationalizing disobedience had hardened their hearts. They had grown comfortable with excuses: "The time hasn't come" (v.2), "We're just surviving," "Opposition is too strong." Repetition breaks through self-deception. God's insistence that they "consider your ways" invited them to trace their dissatisfaction back to its source: they had sought first their own kingdom rather than God's (Matthew 6:33).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What patterns in your life—repeated frustrations, chronic dissatisfaction, persistent struggles—might God be using to prompt self-examination of priorities?
2. How does honest evaluation of "your ways" reveal where you've prioritized comfort, security, or personal goals over God's purposes?
3. What would it look like to "set your heart upon" examining your life with ruthless honesty before God?

Interlinear Text

דָּרְכֵיכֶם: עַל לִבְבְּכֶם שֶׁ יְמֹנוֹ אָכְבָּא וֹת יְהִי ה אֶתְמָר פֵּה H3541 Thus saith the LORD of hosts Consider H3824 H5921 your ways H1870 H559 H3068 H6635 H7760

Additional Cross-References

Haggai 1:5 (References Lord): Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Philippians 3:1 (References Lord): Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.