

# 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** (כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת שִׁימוּ לְבַבְכֶּם/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** (שִׁימוּ לְבַבְכֶּם/simu 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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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כֹּה	אֵמַר	יְהוָה	צְבָא	וְיָמֵינוּ	לִבְבְּךָ	עַל	דְּרִיכֶיךָ:
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	Consider	H3824	H5921	your ways
	H559	H3068	H6635	H7760			H1870

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.