

# Haggai 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

## Analysis

**Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little** אל-פרבה והינה למעט (panoh el-harbeh vehineh lim'at)—God exposes the gap between expectation and reality. They worked hard, planted extensively, anticipated abundance, yet harvested scarcity. **And when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it** ובקבאתם הבית ונאפחתי (vahavetem habayit venafachti vo)—the verb נפח (nafach) means to blow, breathe upon, scatter. God personally acted to dissipate their meager harvest, preventing even small gains from providing satisfaction.

**Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house** עין ביתך אשר-הוא צרב ואתם רצים איש לביתו (ya'an beiti asher-hu charev ve'atem ratzim ish leveito)—God Himself answers the "why" question. Their futility had a direct cause: His house lay in ruins (צְרָב/charev, desolate, destroyed) while they each "ran" (רָצִים/ratzim, actively hurrying) to their own houses. The contrast is devastating: God's house—waste; their houses—priority. God's work—neglected; their work—pursued with energy.

This verse establishes a crucial biblical principle: God will not bless self-centered living. When His people chronically marginalize Him, He withdraws blessing not vindictively but correctively. The futility was meant to prompt self-examination (v.5, 7) and repentance. Malachi 3:8-12 later reiterates this pattern with tithes—robbing God brings curse; honoring Him brings blessing.

## Historical Context

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For sixteen years, the people experienced this frustrating pattern. Archaeology confirms that post-exilic Judah struggled economically. Populations were small, agriculture was difficult, and prosperity was limited. Yet Haggai identifies the root cause: not merely circumstances but spiritual priorities. They had time and resources to panel their houses (v.4) but claimed they couldn't afford to rebuild the temple. God's discipline exposed that rationalization.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. In what areas of life do you experience chronic dissatisfaction despite hard work and reasonable effort—and might God be exposing misplaced priorities?
2. How does the image of "running to your own house" while God's purposes languish describe patterns of self-focus in your life?
3. What would change if you truly believed that prioritizing God's kingdom leads to blessing while self-focus inevitably leads to futility (Matthew 6:33)?

## Interlinear Text

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|              |             |             |             |                          |               |                     |          |          |       |              |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|----------|-------|--------------|
| וְנִבְאַתָּה | מִ          | לִמְעֵד     | ט           | וְהִבָּה                 | אֶל           | פָּנֶה              | הַרְבָּה | וְהַבָּה | אֶל   | פָּנֶה       |
| Ye looked    | H413        | for much    | H2009       | and lo it came to little |               | and when ye brought |          |          |       |              |
| H6437        |             | H7235       |             | H4592                    |               | H935                |          |          |       |              |
| לְבִתְּתוֹן  | לְבִתְּתוֹן | בְּזֶה      | בְּזֶה      | מִן                      | מִן           | נִאֵם               | נִאֵם    | יְהִי    | יְהִי | הָלֹה        |
| it home      | I did blow  | H0          | Because     | H4100                    | upon it       | Why saith           | the LORD |          |       |              |
| H1004        | H5301       |             | H3282       |                          | H5002         |                     | H3068    |          |       |              |
| אֶבְּאָוֹת   | אֶבְּאָוֹת  | לְבִתְּתוֹן | לְבִתְּתוֹן | הַאֲזֶרֶת                | הַאֲזֶרֶת     | שְׁכָב              | שְׁכָב   | רָאֵם    | רָאֵם | וְאֶתְּמָתָה |
| of hosts     | Because     | it home     | H834        | H1931                    | that is waste | H2720               | H859     |          |       |              |
| H6635        | H3282       | H1004       |             |                          |               |                     |          | H7323    |       |              |
| אֲשֶׁר       | אֲשֶׁר      | לְבִתְּתוֹן | לְבִתְּתוֹן | אֲשֶׁר                   | אֲשֶׁר        | שְׁכָב              | שְׁכָב   | רָאֵם    | רָאֵם | וְאֶתְּמָתָה |
| every man    | it home     |             |             |                          |               |                     |          |          |       |              |
| H376         | H1004       |             |             |                          |               |                     |          |          |       |              |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Haggai 1:4** (Parallel theme): Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

**Revelation 3:19** (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**Isaiah 40:7** (References Lord): The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

**Malachi 2:2** (References Lord): If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

**Haggai 1:6** (Parallel theme): Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

