

# Haggai 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.

## Analysis

**I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD** (הִכֵּיתִי אֶתְכֶם בַּשִּׁדְפוֹן / hikeiti etkhem bashidafon uvayerakon uvabarad et kol-ma'aseh yedeikhem ve'ein-etkhem elai ne'um-YHWH)—God explicitly claims responsibility: **I smote you** (הִכֵּיתִי/hikeiti). He sent **blasting** (שִׁדְפוֹן/shidafon, scorching east wind that withers crops), **mildew** (יֶרָקוֹן/yerakon, plant disease causing yellowing), and **hail** (בָּרָד/barad, destructive storms). These are covenant curse warnings from Deuteronomy 28:22 and Amos 4:9.

**Yet ye turned not to me** (וְעֵין־אֶתְכֶם אֵלַי/ve'ein-etkhem elai)—despite repeated discipline over sixteen years, they didn't repent. This echoes Amos 4:6-11, where God recounts five rounds of increasing judgment (famine, drought, blight, plague, military defeat), each ending with the refrain: "Yet you did not return to me." God's purpose in discipline is always redemptive—to prompt repentance and restoration—but it can be resisted through hard-heartedness.

This verse reveals both divine patience and human stubbornness. God didn't abandon them after the first year of futility but persisted in corrective discipline for sixteen years, hoping they'd turn. Yet they rationalized, made excuses, and continued self-focused living. Only when God raised up Haggai to explicitly confront them did they finally respond. This demonstrates the necessity of the

prophetic word—God uses preaching, teaching, and confrontation to break through human self-deception.

## Historical Context

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The period 536-520 BC saw repeated agricultural difficulties that the people likely attributed to natural causes: weather patterns, normal post-exilic hardship, small population size. Haggai reinterprets these circumstances theologically: they were divine discipline for spiritual unfaithfulness. Once the people finally "turned" to God by obeying His word and resuming building, the discipline ceased and blessing began (v.19).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond to repeated difficulties or frustrations—with self-examination and repentance or with rationalization and excuses?
2. What role does the preached word (Scripture, teaching, godly counsel) play in breaking through self-deception and prompting genuine repentance?
3. How does God's patient persistence in discipline over sixteen years demonstrate both His covenant love and the seriousness of sustained disobedience?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל	אֵת	וּבִבְרָד	וּבִזְקָן	בְּשֹׁדֶף וְ	אֶתְּךָ מִ	הֵפֵ יָתִי
		and with hail	and with mildew	you with blasting		I smote
H3605	H853	H1259	H3420	H7711	H853	H5221
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אֵלַי	יְ	אֶתְּךָ מִ	וְאִין	יְדִיךָ מִ	מְעֵשֵׁי הָ	
				of your hands	in all the labours	
H413	H853	H369		H3027	H4639	
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		יְהוָה:		נָא		
		the LORD		yet ye turned not to me saith		
		H3068		H5002		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 28:22** (References Lord): The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.

**1 Kings 8:37** (Parallel theme): If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be;

**Haggai 1:11** (Parallel theme): And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

**Jeremiah 5:3** (References Lord): O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

**Haggai 1:9** (References Lord): 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.

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