

Haggai 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider it.

Analysis

Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider it (שִׁמּוּנָא לְבַבְכֶּם מִן־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וּמֵעַלָּה מִיּוֹם עַשְׂרִים וָאַרְבָּעָה) (simu-na levavkhem min-hayom hazeh vama'lah miyom esrim ve'arba'ah lateshi'i lemin-hayom asher yusad heikhal-YHWH simu levavkhem)—God marks this specific date (December 18, 520 BC) as a turning point. The command **consider** (שִׁמּוּ לְבַבְכֶּם/simu levavkhem) is repeated—once at the beginning, once at the end—framing the promise in verse 19. This repetition emphasizes the importance of marking this moment as pivotal.

From the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid (מִן־הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר) (min-hayom asher yusad heikhal-YHWH)—this refers either to the original foundation laid in 536 BC (Ezra 3:10-11) or to the resumption of work/rededication of the foundation in 520 BC. The latter seems more likely given the immediate promise of blessing in verse 19. This date marks when they moved from mere obedience (they resumed building three months earlier, 1:15) to renewed covenant commitment marked by God's word through Haggai.

Historical Context

The foundation-laying would have been a community ceremony marking official resumption/rededication of the building project. Such ceremonies were common in

ancient Near Eastern construction projects, especially for temples. By specifying this date, God establishes a clear before-and-after: before this day—futility and curse; from this day forward—blessing and prosperity. This clear demarcation helps the community recognize God's covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What specific dates or moments in your spiritual journey mark turning points where God's blessing or discipline became evident?
2. How does memorializing significant spiritual moments (conversion, baptism, key decisions) help sustain faithfulness during difficult seasons?
3. What does it mean to "consider" or "set your heart upon" evaluating God's faithfulness and your obedience over time?

Interlinear Text

הִי וּמֵעַלָּה הַזֶּה הַיּוֹם מִן לְבַבְּךָ מִנְּא שְׁיָמוֹ
Consider H4994 H3824 H4480 **day** H2088 **and upward** **day**
 H7760 H3117 H4605 H3117

אֲשֶׁר הַיּוֹם לְמִן לְתִשְׁעֵי וְאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר יָמִים
and twentieth **from the four** **of the ninth** H4480 **day** H834
 H6242 H702 H8671 H3117

לְבַבְכֶּם: שְׁיָמוֹ יְהוָה הַיֵּכֶל יִסֹּד
that the foundation **temple** **of the LORD'S** **Consider** H3824
 H3245 H1964 H3068 H7760

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 8:9 (Temple): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.

Haggai 2:15 (Temple): And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD:

Zechariah 8:12 (Parallel theme): For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

Deuteronomy 32:29 (Parallel theme): O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!