

Haggai 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

Analysis

According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.—God anchors present encouragement in past covenant faithfulness. The phrase "the word that I covenanted" (אֶת־הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר־כָּרַתִּי/et-hadavar asher-karati) refers to the Mosaic covenant established at Sinai after the Exodus. God's covenant wasn't mere agreement but divine commitment backed by His character and promises—unchanging, unbreakable from His side.

"When ye came out of Egypt" (בִּצְאתְכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם/betzetkhem miMitzrayim) invokes Israel's foundational redemption narrative. The Exodus demonstrated God's power over the greatest empire of that era, His faithfulness to promises made to Abraham centuries earlier, and His ability to sustain His people through wilderness wandering. If God brought them out of Egyptian slavery, sustained them for forty years with manna and quail, and brought them into the Promised Land, He could certainly empower them to rebuild a temple.

"So my spirit remaineth among you" (וְרוּחִי עִמָּךְ/veRuchi omedet betokekhem)—the Hebrew verb "remaineth" (עָמַד/omedet) means stands, abides, endures. God's Spirit wasn't absent from the post-exilic community despite the absence of visible Shekinah glory. The same Spirit who hovered over creation's waters (Genesis 1:2), empowered judges and kings, and inspired the prophets was actively present among the rebuilders. This anticipates Pentecost, when the Spirit

would permanently indwell all believers (Acts 2).

"Fear ye not" (אל־תִּירָאוּ/al-tira'u)—God's command not to fear appears over 100 times in Scripture. Fear paralyzes action, distorts perception, and reveals misplaced trust. God addresses fear not by denying real challenges but by asserting His greater reality: His covenant stands, His Spirit abides, therefore courage is both possible and required.

Historical Context

The returning exiles needed this reminder because they felt spiritually inferior to their ancestors. They had no Ark of the Covenant, no visible Shekinah glory, no fire from heaven consuming sacrifices, no prophetic voices like Moses. The temptation was to assume God's presence and power belonged to the past—to the Exodus generation, to David and Solomon's era—but not to their small, struggling community.

God refutes this assumption. The same covenant made at Sinai remained in force. The same Spirit who led Israel through the wilderness was still among them. God's faithfulness wasn't contingent on their circumstances, resources, or visible manifestations of glory but on His unchanging character. This encouraged the builders to complete the temple, which they did in 516 BC, just four years after Haggai's ministry began.

For Christians, this promise finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ and Pentecost. Jesus is the new Moses who leads the new exodus from sin and death. The Holy Spirit now permanently indwells believers, not just leaders or special occasions. The covenant God made with Israel finds its yes and amen in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20), guaranteeing that God's presence, power, and promises remain with His people in every generation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's past faithfulness in your life or in salvation history provide courage for present challenges and future uncertainties?
2. In what ways are you tempted to think God's power and presence belonged to 'spiritual giants' of the past but isn't available to you today?
3. How does the indwelling Holy Spirit—God's permanent presence in believers—equip you for obedience, worship, and perseverance?

Interlinear Text

אֶת	הַדָּבָר	אֲשֶׁר	כִּי תִי	אֶתְכֶם	
H853	According to the word	H834	that I covenanted	H854	
	H1697		H3772		
בְּצֵאתְךָ	מִמִּצְרַיִם	וְרוּחִי	עִמָּךְ	בְּתוֹכְךָ	אֵל
with you when ye came	out of Egypt	so my spirit	remaineth	among	H408
H3318	H4714	H7307	H5975	H8432	
תִּירָאוּ:					
you fear					
H3372					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:10 (Covenant): And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.

Nehemiah 9:20 (Spirit): Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

Isaiah 41:13 (Parallel theme): For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Zechariah 8:13 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

Zechariah 8:15 (Parallel theme): So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Acts 27:24 (Parallel theme): Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Revelation 1:17 (Parallel theme): And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Nehemiah 9:30 (Spirit): Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

Exodus 34:8 (Parallel theme): And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.