

Today, we’d like to study the title of “Consider Your Ways” in *Haggai 1:1-15*.

To Online Word’s people, we’d like to suggest 3 Questions:

Q1. In verse 6, “You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages *to put* into a bag with holes,” why does it happen? (9)

Q2. In verses 7 and 8, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways! ⁸Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the LORD,” what does God teach us?

Q3. In verse 14, “So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,” what does this verse show?

(Background)

Captivity Return

Bible	References	World History
Darius the Median (Daniel 5:31)	Short reigned for about 3 years (Belshazzar slain)	Nebuchadnezzar; Nabonidus; Belshazzar (Babylonians Kings 586-536 BC)
Cyrus (<i>Ezra 1:1-2¹; 2:2, 64, 65²</i>)	1 st Return (536 BC) “about 5,000” Zerubbabel (Governor); Jeshua (Priest)	Cyrus (536-530 BC)

¹ *Ezra 1:1-2* Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying, ² Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which *is* in Judah.

² *Ezra 2:2, 64, 65* ² Those who came with Zerubbabel *were* Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, *and* Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel: ⁶⁴ The whole assembly together *was* forty-two thousand three hundred *and* sixty, ⁶⁵ besides their male and female servants, of whom *there were* seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred men and women singers.

Ahasuerus (Ezra 4:6)		Cambyses (530-522)
Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:7)	Cease to construct the temple in 534 BC (<i>Ezra 4:21</i> ³ ; “14 years ceased”) by adversaries (Samaritans – interracial Jews carried away by Assyrians; <i>Ezra 4:1-2, 15</i> ⁴)	Sudo Smerdis (522) Darius I (521-486)
Darius (Ezra 6:1)	Haggai + Zechariah in 520 BC (Exhorting prophets <i>Ezra 5:1-2</i> ⁵ ; Haggai 1:1; Zechariah 1:1); Temple finished (<i>Ezra 6:14-15</i> “4 years taken”- from the 2 nd year to the 6 th year of Darius)	
Ahasuerus (Esther 1:1)	Esther’s story	Xerxes [Ahasuerus] (486-465)
Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:1)	2 nd Return (458 BC) (<i>Ezra 7:1-10:44</i>) “about 2K” Ezra (Priest) “spiritual revival” 3 rd Return (444BC) Nehemiah (Governor of Judah) (<i>Nehemiah 1:1-13:31</i>) “Rebuilding City Walls”	Artaxerxes I (464-423)
Darius (Ezra 4:5)		Darius II (423-404)

<p>In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on <u>the first day</u> of the month, the word of the LORD came by <u>Haggai</u> the prophet to <u>Zerubbabel</u> the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to <u>Joshua</u> the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, ²“Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built.”’” ³Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,</p>	<p>1= Darius (reopen to rebuild the temple); Joshua or Jeshua</p>
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³ *Ezra 4:21* Now give the command to make these men cease, that this city may not be built until the command is given by me.

⁴ *Ezra 4:1-2, 15* ¹Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the descendants of the captivity were building the temple of the LORD God of Israel, ²they came to Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers’ houses, and said to them, “Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you do; and we have sacrificed to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here.” ¹⁵that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers. And you will find in the book of the records and know that this city *is* a rebellious city, harmful to kings and provinces, and that they have incited sedition within the city in former times, for which cause this city was destroyed.

⁵ *Ezra 5:1-2* Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, *who was over* them. ² So Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak rose up and began to build the house of God which *is* in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were with them, helping them.

<p>4“<u>Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?</u>”</p> <p>5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: <u>“Consider your ways!</u></p> <p>6“<u>You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.”</u></p> <p>7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: <u>“Consider your ways!</u> 8 <u>Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,”</u> says the LORD. 9 <u>“You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?”</u> says the LORD of hosts. <u>“Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.</u> 10 <u>Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit.</u> 11 <u>For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”</u></p> <p>12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and</p>	<p>4= paneled houses (to beautify houses); this temple to lie in ruins (in OT, temple was the symbol of the presence of God, so that the rebuilt temple tells Judah’s relationship with God; but ruined temple – disregard the relationship with God (spiritual life, worshipping God, tithes, praying life, Bible study, preaching, etc) rather than physical life – house, e.g. security (job, finance, retirement plans, family, vacations, leisure activities.)</p> <p>5= Consider your ways (examine yourself)</p> <p>6=Q1 (the harder they worked for themselves, the less productive/ fruitful they had because they ignored their relationship with God or spiritual life, 9)</p> <p>7.8=Q2 Consider your ways! (repeated teaching ⁶ 1 Cor 11:31-32); build the temple (seek 1st the matter of God, the spiritual matter, the relationship with God; wrong or messed up priorities! ⁷ Mat 6:33-34)</p> <p>9= looked for much, but indeed it came to little... Why?... Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house (disregard spiritual life, the relationship with God, rather than their physical life to take care of their houses; God wants them to turn back to God)</p> <p>11= grain, wine, oil (main food for Judah)</p>
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⁶ 1 Cor 11:31-32 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

⁷ Mat 6:33-34 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

<p>Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him; and <u>the people feared the presence of the LORD.</u> ¹³Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, spoke the LORD's message to the people, saying, "<u>I am with you, says the LORD.</u>" ¹⁴So the LORD <u>stirred up the spirit</u> of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and <u>the spirit of Joshua</u> the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and <u>the spirit of all the remnant of the people</u>; and they came and <u>worked on the house of the LORD of hosts,</u> their God, ¹⁵on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.</p>	<p>12= the people feared the presence of the Lord (it begins the wisdom).</p> <p>14= Q3 stirred up the spirit...all the people... worked on the house (no dead faith but alive faith – faith is not shown by allegation but by works – faith in heart is spiritually followed by works ⁸James 2:14, 26</p> <p>15= the 24th day (after Haggai's 1st day message of His word, they responded to practice of His word. It appears late but better than no-response ⁹Jeremiah 13:17)</p>
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⁸ James 2:14, 26¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

⁹ Jeremiah 13:17 But if you will not hear it, My soul will weep in secret for *your* pride; My eyes will weep bitterly And run down with tears, Because the LORD's flock has been taken captive.