

Haggai 1 **The Time is Now !**Wednesday
11/3/2021

I. A Call to Consideration v 1 - 11

- v 1 hx: - *second year of Darius* = 16 years after the Jews return, Ezra 1:1 & 5:1
- Post-exile prophets use Gentile dating, Luke 21:24
doct: God's prophet > a governor or a priest
- v 2 God's 1st charge : Neglect of Spiritual Duty
hx: why did they neglect duty? Ans: **Ezra 4:21-24** - An unlawful civil decree
doct: **Acts 4:18-20** & **5:27-29**
- v 3 *the word of the Lord by the prophet*
- v 4 God's 2nd charge : Placing the Secular above the Sacred spir: **Luke 14:18-20** (note v 24)
- v 5 & 7 God's Call (2x): *Consider your ways ! ~ Verily, verily*

the secular lifeThe Sacred Life*Do you*

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|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - spend more time reading the books of men, than | <i>the Holy Bible</i> | Revelation 1:3 |
| - take more time seeking 'good' physical food, than | <i>spiritual food</i> | Job 23:12 |
| - believe the words of men (media, pv's), more than | <i>the words of God</i> | Ps 12:6-7, 1 Thes 2:13 |
| - talk more about the works of this world, than | <i>the works of God</i> | Psalms 78:7 |
| - give more money to man's 'causes', than | <i>God's Church</i> | Lk 12:20-21 |
| - love your "fellow man", more than you love | <i>your Saviour</i> | Mt 22:35-40 |
| - care more for friends & strangers, rather than | <i>the family of God</i> | Gal 6:10, 1 Tim 5:8 |
| - live more for your selfish desires, than for | <i>Jesus desires</i> | Mk 8:35-36 |
| - plan more for temporal things, than for | <i>eternal things</i> | 2 Cor 4:18 |
| - on a daily basis 'fear man', more than you | <i>fear God</i> | Mt 10:28 |
| - serve the creation & it's creatures, more than | <i>the Creator</i> | Rom 1:25 |
| - seek to please fellow man & yourself, more than | <i>the Father</i> | John 8:29 |
| - plan your vacation destinations, more than your | <i>eternal destination</i> | 1 John 5:13 |

v 8 God's Instruction - The Blessings of the Sacred Life

- 1 *Go* Mark 16:15 *in and out* - 1 Sam 18:16, John 10:9
 - 2 *up to the mountain* **Isaiah 2:3** & **40:9** **Luke 6:12**
 - 3 *bring wood* Gen 6:4 the ark of Noah, Gen 22 (5x) Abraham & Isaac,
Exo 25 the ark of the *tabernacle* & the *table of shewbread*
 - 4 *and build the house* Matthew 16:18, 1 Timothy 3:15
- Go ... and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord . Rev 4:7, Isa 43:7*

v 9-11 God's Reminder - The Barrenness of a secular life

The selfish pursuit of temporal, worldly activities results in drought, loss and disappointment.

The Lord will not bless such pursuits.

God withholds blessings from disobedient children

II. A Confident Assurance v 12 - 15

v 12 *Then ... all the remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord... and the words*

v 13 *I am with you, saith the Lord*

Lost people avoid the truth, *because their are evil* (Jn 3:19).

Christians avoid serving the Lord because their old nature hates Holiness.

They see the 'negative' aspects of holy living and serving God.

God does not 'walk with you' until you begin serving Him.

He dispenses serving grace after you commence action. **2 Cor 9:6-11, Eph 3:14-19**

The *fruit of the Spirit* is only borne in the 'summer' heat of service. Gal 5:22-23

This is why most saints never experience spiritual peace.

Paul wrote : *work out your salvation with fear and trembling*. Phil 2:12

The Bible prepares us with the negative view before we take the right action. Num 13:30-33

God waits for us to make the right move (not just the right decision) to test our love for Him.

When we take action, the Lord shows up at the right time,

removes the opposition (Ezra 6), and gives the victory (1 Cor 15:57, Phil 4:13).

We experience His joyous fruit presently, and He rewards us eternally.

Next week : Haggai chapter 2

- I. God's Covenant v 1 - 9
- II. God's Commands v 10 - 19
- III. God's Vengeance v 20 - 23

references -

1. *The Common Man's Reference Bible*, D. Hoffman, 2004, purewords
2. *Analytical Bible Expositor*, John G. Butler, 2013, LBC Publ.