

Title: Consider Your Ways

Scripture: Haggai 1:5, 7

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Haggai 1:5 "Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."

Haggai 1:7 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."

Consider these things of Israel:

1. The rebuke of their kings: "consider" means to take serious thought. In verse 2, it says "this people say". Not *my* people. What caused God to feel this way? They waited fifteen years to finish the temple. They walked by it day after day and never got convicted that the Lord's work wasn't being done. They were indifferent to God, but not towards what they wanted (see verse 4 "*Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?*"). The people could build their own houses but wouldn't do the same work for God. Their hearts were not in the right place. Are we letting sinners perish because our own Christian life is laying waste?
2. The call to serious examination: to consider means to evaluate one's self. Why are you doing this? Israel needed to consider. They needed to reflect. They could easily evaluate their actions by the results. When God is forgotten it is not being used. Just as Israel examined themselves, so should the church. I Corinthians 11:28 says "*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*", and II Corinthians 13:5 says "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*" Because our concerns are cosmetic, we can't show God what he really wants to see. What does God want to see?
 - a. Tears shed over the lost.
 - b. Broken hearts for the souls that are in danger.
 - c. Our footprints walking toward sinners homes.Matthew 6:21 "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*"
3. Israel's chastising from God: God was not going to turn Israel over to captivity again. He was going to deal with them directly. Why? Because his house lay in waste. Is there something in our hearts that God doesn't have control of? We need to examine ourselves. God needs to be our focus. We should know the result of God's chastisement. It will cause us to yield ourselves to Him. I Peter 4:17 says "*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*"
4. The obedience of the nation: Verse 8 and verses 12-13 say "*Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, 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 the people did fear before the LORD. 13 Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.*" God now refers to Israel as *his* people instead of *these* people. Israel's revival:
 - a. They obeyed
 - b. They feared
 - c. They had a revival