

- (2) Result of obedience to the command (Hag. 1:8b).

The temple would be rebuilt and the Lord would be pleased with it and would be honored by the rebuilding of it.

- (3) Reason for obedience to the command (Hag. 1:9-11).

It is the only way the Lord will remove the chastisement He has brought upon His people. The chastisement consists of a drought. Note the following facts about the drought:

- (a) Cause of the drought (Hag. 1:9b).

The Lord's people ran with eager zeal to their own houses to decorate and expand them but they neglected the rebuilding of the temple thereby placing their own personal interest above the work the Lord wanted them to do. Thus their priorities were wrong and they had failed to fulfill their obligation to rebuild the temple (cf. Lev. 26:18-20).

- (b) Extent of the drought (Hag. 1:11a,b)

It extended to all the plain country, including all the cultivated fields as well as to the mountains.

Note: According to Pieter A. Verhoef; the drought was confined to the province of Jerusalem -Judah because it concerns the postexilic community in that territory.

- (c) Severity of the drought (Hag. 1:11c,d,e,f,g,h, and i).

The drought affected the grainfields (Hag. 1:11c -"and upon the grain"), the vineyards (Hag. 1:11d -"and upon the new wine"), the olive orchards (Hag. 1:11e - "and upon the oil", and everything that grew, especially everything that yielded food for people and animals (Hag. 1:11f - "and upon that which the ground bringeth forth"). Thus it also affected people (Hag. 1:11g-"and upon men") and animals (Hag. 1:11h- "and upon cattle"- the word "cattle" is better translated "beasts" or "animals"), and everything that people tried to get to grow through their strenuous efforts (Hag. 1:11i -"and upon all the labor of the hands" cf. Lev. 26:20).

- (d) Result of the drought (Hag. 1:9 a,b)

The Lord's people had a very scanty harvest, and what they were able to store up in their barns, the Lord caused them to lose it before it was able to do any of them any good.

Note: Just as the wind drives away the chaff so there is none left, so the Lord caused what His people had stored up in their barns to be lost so there was none left, and He did it before it could do anybody any good.