

- b. The Lord admonishes His people to consider their conduct (lay it to heart) which is an evidence of their indifference towards the work the Lord wants them to do, and the consequence of it (Hag. 1:5,6)

(1) Conduct of the Lord's people

They built wainscoted houses for themselves and neglected the rebuilding of the temple thereby putting their own personal interest above the work the Lord wanted them to do (Hab. 1:4).

(2) Consequence of the conduct of the Lord's people

The Lord brought chastisement upon them. That chastisement consisted of a drought (cf. Hag. 1:11,) which had the following results:

- (a) A scanty harvest (Hag. 1:6a -"Ye have sown much, and bring in little")

That had little to store in their barns.

- (b) Inadequate food to satisfy their hunger (Hag. 1:6b -"ye eat, but ye have not enough"), water to quench their thirst (Hag. 1:6c -"ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink"), and clothes to keep them warm (Hag. 1:6d - "ye clothe yourselves, but there is none warm").

- (c) Inflation

They couldn't save any money (Hag. 1:6e -"and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes").

Note: Calvin says that the Lord chastened His people, not only by the drought He brought upon them, but also by keeping the food, water, and clothes His people had from satisfying, so there was no real enjoyment of them. Thus His people may have had a good supply of food, but they were still always hungry. They may have had a good supply of water, but they were always thirsty. They may have had a good supply of clothes, but they were still always cold. Calvin says that sometimes the Lord keeps food and water from satisfying by depriving them of their true virtue so that eating and drinking fail to support the strength of a person.

- c. The Lord commanded His people to do the work He wanted them to do, namely, to rebuild the temple (Hag. 1:7-11).

(1) Statement of the command (Hag. 1:8~~a~~).

The Lord commanded His people to go up to a mountain on which wood chiefly grew, to fetch the necessary building material, and to rebuild the temple.