Haggai - Commentaries by Norman W. Berry

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 3, Haggai 2, Verses 10-23, Day 267 -

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V.10-17 God explains why they did not succeed in their work. They were in a bad state of soul. A real message for us. We need constantly to ask God for a tender conscience. When we go on carelessly, we lose our ability to understand spiritual things, and we drift farther away. When we have a tender conscience, then God lets us see some of the careless things in our life. If we confess and forsake them, then we begin to learn a little more. We grow in our soul step by step.

V.12-13 We are not made clean by association with what is clean, but we are soiled (contaminated) by associating with what is unclean. A good thing to remember.

V.1-19 If there is a pure heart toward God, He will bless us in our soul.

V.20-23 We are not to try to set the world right. Speaking reverently, if God has not set it right, we cannot. Here we see into the future — judgment is coming.

V.23 Zerubbabel becomes a picture of Christ. He was God’s pledge (promise) that Christ would come.

“I will make thee as a signet;” contrast this with the signet (Jer. 22:24).

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Haggai lived at about the same time as the first half of the book of Ezra. The interesting difference is that Ezra tells of the adversaries (4th chapter) but doesn’t tell of the condition of the heart of the people; whereas Haggai tells of the state of soul of the people and not of the adversaries. The Lord allows the circumstances in order to draw our souls closer to Him. Then we understand.

V.3 The Lord reminds them of the glory of the first house; but in verse 7, He tells them of the future glory of “this house.”

V.4-5 Beautiful promises. He tells them to be strong, and better still, He tells them why they could be strong, “I am with you.” Ephesians 6:10 is worth turning to.

V.6-9 They could look forward to a great future on earth — we look heavenward! ({vi 29435;29442}Phil. 3:13, 20). In this first message, the Lord encourages the leaders to look to the Lord, not at the circumstances.