Haggai - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Daily Sacrifice, May 27

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“The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord of hosts”— Haggai 2:8.

GOD here declares that the wealth of the world belongs to Him. It may often seem otherwise to those who lack faith, but the man who puts his confidence in God knows that all that men esteem as riches belongs to Him and is dispensed as He sees fit. When need arises, therefore, faith can act upon the word, “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” He to Whom all the silver and the gold belong, is abundantly able to meet every need as it arises.

—C. Wesley.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 20

“Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes” — Haggai 1:5, 6.

THERE are two key expressions in the little Book of Haggai that give us the purpose of this prophecy: “Consider your ways,” and “Be strong.” There are six books of the Old Testament that are intimately linked together—three historical, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, and three prophetic, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. These give us the story of God’s dealings with the people of Judah after the Babylonian dominion was overthrown and the Medo-Persian empire, which was favorable to the Jews in the main, had succeeded to world sovereignty. In Ezra and Nehemiah we have the history of the returning remnant, and the three prophets throw light upon their moral and spiritual state. Haggai sought to encourage the people to go on with their God-appointed program, the rebuilding of the Temple, which had been hindered because of the opposition of the mixed races (the Samaritans, as they were afterward known) who were dwelling in the land of Palestine. He sought to exercise the consciences of the remnant, and called upon them to face their low spiritual condition before God and get right with Him. His searching ministry proved so effective that the people were stirred to “arise and build.” Then he sounded out the note of encouragement, “Be strong.”

—Edith G. Cherry.

Daily Sacrifice, May 26

“Then spake Haggai the Lord’s messenger in the Lord’s message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the Lord”— Haggai 1:13.

IT is a great thing to be chosen by God as the messenger in order to carry His message to His people or to the world. Many, it is to be feared, profess to represent Him, who know little or nothing of that which He would have them proclaim. In Haggai we see a man wholly subject to the Lord. As His representative Haggai sought to give forth to the returned captives the message which God had given him. It was a message destined both to exercise the conscience and to strengthen the hearts of the people of the Lord. As we ponder these words they may well speak to us today, bidding us consider our ways and be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.

—Frances R. Havergal.