

YOU CHOOSE - FRUSTRATION OR BLESSING

What are the consequences of neglecting God's Great Commandment and God's Great Commission? [The Great Commandment is "Love God supremely, and your neighbor as yourself." The Great Commission is "Go, make disciples of all people, baptizing them and teaching them to obey my commandments."] For the Jews of Haggai's day, the consequences were frustration and ineffectiveness in everything they did. They planted and got little return. They made money, but it was never enough. They ate, but were still hungry. Do we see things such as this happening today? Is God trying to tell us something? I think so!

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty." Haggai 2:6-9

A day of accounting is coming. Jesus (the desired of all nations) is going to return. Just as in the parable of the talents, He is going to be asking what we did with the ten talents or the five talents (the resources of time, ability, and material things) He left with us. These all belong to God -- "the silver is mine and the gold is mine." The question will be, "What did you do with My silver and My gold?" Will we say, "Lord, I built this really nice house for my family and we took some terrific vacations? You should see the great furnishing we have in our house."

God's temple **is** being built and it **is** going to be filled. What part will we have in it?

'From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid. Give careful thought: Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. "'From this day on I will bless you.'" Haggai 2:18-19

What can we do? Think back to the day when you laid the foundation of Christ Jesus in your life. Give careful thought. Do you have any resources left? Is there any seed in the barn? If there is any thing left, then it is not too late to be about the business of putting first things first. When we do that we can claim the promise from God, "From this day on, I will bless you."