

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE LORD'S WORK?

Intro. Question: What's wrong etc. Ans. Money, methods, situation, times. Not really. Ques: What's wrong etc. Ans. The Lord's ^{people} workers. We are what's wrong. Look at some problems they had in another day and see parrallel. Day I speak of is day of Haggai prophet. Background began with edict of Cyrus (Ezra 1) predicted in Jer 25:9 Total who returned not more than 212,000. Altar built foundation laid then Samaritan protest to Persians resulted in 15 yr delay. Under Darius favor again extended to Jews to build. Zech and Haggai stirred up people and under Zerubbabel and Joshua temple finished in 4 yrs. What were the prob with the workers which Haggai had to combat?

I. MATERIALISM Self-interest *Cure - God's work*

A. Its Evidence, 4. Cielled houses. Beamed or panelled.

Sign of affluence. Saphan used of Sol's temple, 1 Kg 6:9, 7:3, 7 AND OF house of King, Jer 22:14. Indeed maybe they were using the cedar brought for the temple, Ezra 3:7. Whatever it means by way of architect it does mean costly houses. Yet found excuse to dealy building temple for 15-~~16~~ years. v 9b. This was imported wood.

B. Its effect. Emptiness. v.6 for both the one who worked the land and one who earned wages. This was habituall condition acc to tense. Judgmt was twofold-- impoverished harvests and emptiness of life.

Yet had enuf to spend lavishly of selves.

Materialistic interests always show up in some aspect of one's life; yet leave one empty; and divert attentn from Lord's work. Matt 6:21. 1 Cor 7:31.

If no interest in Lord's work check where interests are. Zer and Josh got stirred and led others in work. God give us Zers and Joshuas today.

II. Emotionalism. Self-pity. Discouragement *Cure - God's presence*

A. Cause, 2:3. Old men remembered Sol's temple and wept when saw foundations of this one, Ezra 3:12.

Now had been building a month and saw contrast more. Must have talked too or others wouldn't have been infected. Power of ex of older ones. What they said in 4b. So everyone discouraged. What's the use. Can't do what others have done so won't do anything. Can't get A so why work to maximum. Can't give \$1000 so why give \$1. Can't be a Cahfer now so why be mature for present state

B. ^{16 Prophecy of Lord} Cure. Presence of Lord. 4c ^{17 Promise of Lord} Promise of Lord of all temples. All boils down to presence of Lord as cure for discouragement. Prospect in the Lord, 6-9 *18 Prophecy of Lord.*

III. Uncleaness. Unyieldedness. 2:10-19

Self-will

Crime - God's mercy

A. The Questions, 10-13

Addressed to priests who should know law. Deut 17:8f

#1--Acc to Lev 6:27 garment that touched sin off
was holy but priests ruled that holiness couldn't
be transmitted further.

#2--Clearly unclean, Num 19:22.

B. The Point, 14

Moral cleanness cannot be transmitted but

uncleanness can. Health can't; sickness can.

Offerings unacceptable bec they were unyielded
since not building temple. Disobed transmitted to off.

C. The Punishment, 15-17 On productivity.

D. The Promise, 18-19. Blessing in spite of it.

Blessing no test of yieldedness. God knows heart.

This is greatest hindrance to Lord's work today.