

*“Then came the Word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, ‘Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this House lie waste?’ Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; ‘Consider Your Ways.’”*  
*Haggai 1:3-5 KJV*

God asks a question, “Why is my House in ruins and your houses not?” Nebuchadnezzar had razed Jerusalem, plundered the Temple, left it in ruins, and taken Israel into captivity. God was more concerned with the Temple being restored than the city of Jerusalem. In this we find a Truth of life. Sin has left us desolate and captive with our “Temple” treasures plundered, yet we spend our time and effort on our physical needs instead of rebuilding our relationship with God. “*Consider your ways. If any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the Temple of God is Holy, which Temple ye are.*” Israel had gone whoring after strange gods while still using the Temple, thus defiling it and God sent Nebuchadnezzar to



destroy their city, His Temple, and put them in bondage, because of it. When we allow our lusts to take priority over our love for God, He will allow us to reap the harvest of our evil sowing. “*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap Life Everlasting.*” When we gratify our lusts we “*defile the Temple of God, which Temple ye are. Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*” Is it any wonder that our lives are pillaged by sin when we consistently ignore God? You can’t hob nob with the world all day and expect God to be pleased with a few minutes of “devotion” time. “*Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.*” God’s Word says, “*Pray without ceasing. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. Meditate therein day and night.*” The result will be; “*then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*” There is such a thing as “bad” success. You may have this world’s pleasure and prosperity while being held captive and destroyed by sin. Israel had all the comforts of home in captivity, but they were slaves to Babylon. God will let you reap what you sow!

Consider now, the life you live,  
And how much time to God you give,  
If you would truly have success,  
Seek first the Lord and Righteousness. –CGP

The Word of the Lord still came to the captives in Babylon, “Build my House.” God restored them to their city and stood with them as they rebuilt, but the scars of captivity remain to this day. One day all will be made new for every true believer, but “*it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*” Repentance is quite simply obeying God’s Word. God can and will restore you if you “*consider your ways*” and repent.

*“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, My great army which I sent among you.” Joel 2:25 KJV*