

A man with a long white beard and a turban, likely a prophet or priest, is shown in profile, speaking to a group of people. The background is a stone building with columns. The text "a renewed spiritual awakening" is overlaid on the image.

a renewed spiritual
awakening

God's Priests, Providence and Plans

Haggai 2:10-23

Understanding Holiness

- Many Jews believed that, as long as they observed the various outward rituals of religious worship, God would bless them.
- Holiness is not communicable, while defilement is.
- A Holy ordinance cannot make an unholy person, who is performing that ordinance, holy.
- Moral cleanness cannot be transmitted but moral pollution can.

Application To God's People

- Even though the people were ignoring the work on the temple, they were still observing their religious duties.
- God wanted the people to know that the actual ritual of worship has no inherent power in and of itself.
- The people, being at that time unholy because of their sin, were polluting the holy ordinances of God.
- Religious ritualism is worthless; it does not and cannot make us right with God.

Message of God's Providence

- God reminded the people that because they were in a state of spiritual apathy, He must punish them by bringing them into circumstances of adversity.
- External hardships of the people were not considered as God's call to repentance until explained to be such by Haggai.
- It is easy to forget that God speaks to us not only through His Word, but also through His providential dealings in our daily lives.
- When children of God are brought to the point where they recognize their sin, turn from it and return to God with all their hearts, He will bless them.

Conclusion

- God comforted and encouraged Zerubbabel and the people by assuring them that they would be preserved.
- God works to bring about His plans and purposes.
- God preserves His covenant people throughout all ages until His kingdom is finally and fully consummated.
- The Church is the safest institution in the world.