

Transforming Daily
“...*consider your ways*...”
Haggai 1:5, 7

Haggai delivered a direct message to the children of God. His message was for them to make arrangements for rebuilding God’s temple. Haggai also had two indirect messages for the children of God. One was to get and remain faithful to the Word of God, and the other was to prepare themselves and their ancestry for the events of God “in that day.” The prophecy of Haggai was in part fulfilled through the rebuilding of the temple led by Zerubbabel, but as with all prophecy, there is the “yet to be fulfilled” part of his prophecy that is yet to be realized “in that day.”

Haggai’s challenge was to break the children of Israel away from their complacency toward the things of God. God’s children had engrossed themselves in the ways and means of the surrounding nations and contemporary culture. In essence, the children of Judah had allowed their faith to be compromised, convoluted and circumvented. Literally Haggai admonishes them for having their homes and dwelling places while God’s “dwelling place” lay in ruins. The present state of affairs was an affront to God and a dishonor to their testimony and heritage.

I have heard the story told in several different ways and in context regarding a couple of different people. The version I remember involves Alexander the Great. It seems that a young man in the heat of battle ran away, he retreated in the face of the enemy. He was frightened and upset. It is said that Alexander the Great in an attempt to console and encourage the young man spoke to him with word of kindness and compassion. As soon as the boy took courage and began to regain his composure Alexander the Great asked him what his name was. The young man told him that his name was also Alexander. Alexander the Great’s demeanor changed as well as the tone of his voice, and with strong words admonishment he said to the boy, “Young man, either change your conduct or change your name!”

When Alexander the Great heard the boy’s name the issue suddenly became personal. For God it has always been personal. He chose Israel to go forth in His name so that all of the surrounding nations would know that He was God. The same mission applies to the church. The church is to go and make disciples of all nations.

Do you bear the name of Christ? Does your conduct reflect that you bear His name? Are you committed to the mission of making disciples of all nations? Do you make it a practice regarding God’s Word to consider your ways?