

He that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Hag. 1 : 6

In these words, spoken on their return from captivity, God remonstrates with his people for neglecting the rebuilding of his house, and indicates this as the reason for the failure of their crops, and the profitlessness of their labours. They seemed to put their hard-earned wages into a bag with holes.

How true a description of many in the present day! They work hard, but derive little comfort from their toils. Their homes are bare; their children unkempt; their circumstances meagre. They are always in anxiety. Gambling, drinking, loose and evil company--are indeed bags with holes. But there are other analogies. We sometimes find our days slipping away without accomplishing anything worth mentioning. We have nothing to show for them--nothing accomplished, nothing done. Or we expend time and thought on plans that are apparently well and carefully devised, but they prove abortive and disappointing. All this is like a labourer putting his wages into a bag with holes, and when he reaches home he has nothing to show for his labour.

There is a reason for this loss and failure. What applied to the Jews on their return from captivity, applies still. We have not placed God first. We have run every man to his own house, while His house has lain waste. We have worked from the wrong base of operations. We have not made first things first. If we do not trust in the Lord with all our heart, but lean to our own understanding; if in all our ways we do not acknowledge Him; if our eyes are not single to his interests, we need not be surprised when He calls for a drought upon the land. Let us consider our ways, and amend them.

得工錢的，將工錢裝在破漏的囊中。 該一6

神用這話來責備從被擄之地歸回的百姓，因他們忽視聖殿的重建，並指明這就是他們的莊稼歉收，和他們辛勞沒有效益的原因。他們好像把辛苦賺取的工錢放進了一個破漏的囊中。

這是現今許多人何等真實的寫照！他們努力工作，但從他們的辛勞得到的安慰很少。他們家徒四壁，孩子邇邇，處境貧乏。他們一直在焦慮中。賭博、酗酒、放蕩、濫交——的確是破漏的袋子。但還有別的類似的情形。有時候我們發現日子悄悄溜走，卻沒有完成任何值得一提的事。我們沒有什麼可以向人們展示的，一事無成。或者我們耗費時間和思考在那些表面上看起來很好、設計很仔細的計畫上，但這些計畫卻沒有結果且令人失望。所有的這一切，就像一個工人把他的工資放進破漏的袋子，當他到家時，他拿不出什麼來證明他的辛勞。

這個損失和失敗有一個原因。那適用於被擄歸回的猶太人的原則，如今仍然適用。我們沒有把神放在首位。我們已經使人各顧自己的房屋，而祂的殿卻荒涼(9節)。我們一直在錯誤的運作基礎上作工。我們沒有把最重要的事放在首位。如果我們不全心信靠主，而倚靠自己的聰明；如果我們不在一切所行的路上認定祂；如果我們的眼睛不單單注視祂的利益，當祂命令乾旱臨到地土時，我們就無需驚訝。但願我們思想我們的道路，並加以修正。

The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former. Hag. 2: 8, 9 (R.V.)

The new Temple was deficient in the splendid adornment which Solomon had lavished on the first. Neither gold, nor silver, nor precious stones garnished its bare walls. But Haggai says that this lack was not due to any failure in the resources of Israel's God. The silver and the gold were his; and if He had chosen He could have poured them without stint into the lap of his people. But He purposely withheld them, that their attention might not be distracted from the spiritual glory which was to make the second Temple more famous than the lavished gold of Parvaim. The latter glory of this house, or the glory of this latter house, shall be greater, saith the Lord of Hosts; and then, as though to indicate that the glory was to be moral and spiritual, the divine voice adds, "And in this place will I give peace."

Dear child of God, it has pleased thy Heavenly Father to withhold from thee both gold and silver. Thou hast just enough to live on, but that is all. With the apostle thou sayest, "Silver and gold have I none." God could have done otherwise for thee; for the silver and gold are his. But He purposely abstained lest thy head should be lifted up; lest thy attention should be so absorbed by these things as to neglect the sure riches; lest the radiance of thy faith, which is more precious than gold tried in the fire, or the beauty of thy meek and quiet spirit, should be obscured by the tawdry sheen of earth's metals.

But peace, and righteousness, and meek humility, are of everlasting work. Cultivate these; let thy life be a Temple whose glory is the indwelling of God; expect that the Desire of all nations should make thee his home, and shine through thee to others.

這殿後來的榮耀，必大過先前的榮耀。 該二8-9

新聖殿缺乏所羅門在第一個聖殿上華美的裝飾。沒有金子，也沒有銀子，也沒有寶石裝飾牆面。但是哈該說，這個短缺並非由於以色列的神資源不足。銀子和金子都是祂的(8節)；如果祂決心要作，祂會毫不吝惜地將金銀傾倒在祂子民的膝上。但祂刻意保留不賜下金銀，使百姓不致分心，而專注這殿屬靈的榮耀，這榮耀使得這第二個聖殿比奢侈的巴瓦音金子更著名(代下三6)。這殿後來的榮耀必更大，或說，這後來之殿的榮耀必更大，這是萬軍之耶和華說的；好像是要表明這榮耀是德性和靈性的，神的聲音接著說：「在這地方我必賜平安。(9節)」

親愛的神的孩子，你的天父喜悅保留金銀不給你。你所有的剛剛夠生活，而那就是全部。你可以和使徒一樣說：「金銀我都沒有。(徒三6)」神可以用別的方法為你成事；因為銀子和金子都是祂的。但祂刻意不這樣作，以免你自以為了不起；以免你專注這些東西，以至忽略真實的財富；以免你那比被火試驗的金子更顯寶貴之信心的光芒(彼前一7)、你溫柔安靜之靈的美麗(彼前三4)，被地上金銀低俗的光澤遮蔽。

然而平安、公義、溫柔的謙卑才是永遠的工作。培養這些美德；讓你的生命成為一個殿，這殿的榮耀就是神居住在裡面；期待「萬國所羨慕的」(7節)，使你成為祂的家，藉著你照耀別人。