

“Haggai”

A False Assumption About The Seriousness Of Sin!

- I. The Lord questions the people to help them understand their false assumption about the seriousness of sin. (Hag 2:10-14)
- A. The setting (Hag 2:10)
It is 90 days since they earnestly returned to work on the temple, which has sat pitifully for 17 or 18 years!
- B. Question and Answer #1 (Hag 2:11-12)
“Is holiness transferable?” “No!” (cf. Lev. 6:27)
- C. Question and Answer #2 (Hag 2:13)
“Is uncleanness transferable?” “Yes!” (cf. Lev. 22:4-7; Num. 19:11, 22)
- D. The Lord’s answer is that sin permeates all one does. (Hag 2:14)
- II. The Lord’s answer corrects the false assumption of the people. (Hag 2:15-19)
- A. Sin brings discipline, for the Lord desires repentance. (Hag 2:15-17)
- B. Even after repentance, there are consequences to sin, yet the Lord’s blessing will come to godliness. (Hag 2:18-19)

Seven Laws of the Harvest

- LAW #1. WE REAP ONLY WHAT HAS BEEN SOWN.**
All life comes from antecedent life; for as Louis Pasteur has adequately demonstrated, there is no such thing as spontaneous generation.
What we reap, then, was planted prior to our present season. Nothing around us “just happened.” What we presently reap was planted either naturally or purposely, either by God or man, for either positive or negative results. We are benefactors of much for which we have extended no labor, and we enter into the labor or sowing of others.
We are also recipients of the sowing of tares in the field; for what we and others do does affect us, and there is no way for us to elude it.
- LAW #2. WE REAP THE SAME IN KIND AS WE SOW.**
Whatever we sow, we reap; so that, if we sow the good, we will reap the good. If we sow the evil, we will reap the evil.
- LAW #3. WE REAP IN A DIFFERENT SEASON THAN WHEN WE SOW.**
We sow in one season; we reap in another. No harvest comes the moment the seed is planted, but it must await God’s appointed time.
- LAW #4. WE REAP MORE THAN WE SOW.**
No fact is more significant and sobering. When we sow the wind, we reap the whirlwind. When we sow good, we bountifully receive from the hand of God who is debtor to no man; for the harvest is **always greater** than the seed planted. If this were not the case, no farmer would plant anything.
- LAW #5. WE REAP IN PROPORTION AS WE SOW.**
If we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly; but if we sow bountifully, we reap accordingly. The more ground we sow, the greater harvest we will have.
- LAW #6. WE REAP THE FULL HARVEST OF THE GOOD ONLY IF WE PERSEVERE; THE EVIL COMES TO HARVEST ON ITS OWN.**
Weeds grow by themselves, but this is not true with the vegetables and fruits in the garden. These require much care.
- LAW #7. WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT LAST YEAR’S HARVEST, BUT WE CAN ABOUT THIS COMING YEAR’S HARVEST.**
Last year is a fact of history that cannot be relived and about which we can do nothing. Our concern needs to be for what we are producing right now.

(from Emil Brunner (Translated by Thomas Wieser) Sowing and Reaping, The Parables of Jesus (Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1964).