

### **Haggai 1:1-15 – Study Leader’s Questions**

1. *How does God describe Himself in Haggai 1:2? What does this mean?*
2. *What are the same words used in Haggai 1:5, 7? How could we phrase this today?*
3. *In Haggai 1:6 what are the five actions followed by a surprising phrase?*
4. *What excuses do the people offer on not rebuilding the Lord’s house?*
5. *How does the message of Haggai 1:4 differ from the one in Haggai 1:2?*
6. *What is God’s solution to eliminate these disappointing expectations (Haggai 1:8)?*
7. *Why has the sky withheld its dew and the earth its produce (Haggai 1:9)?*
8. *Why was there drought on the land and what was the cause of the great strain on society (Haggai 1:11)?*
9. *What should we understand about God’s involvement in:*
  - a. *Society*
  - b. *The church*
  - c. *Does He still do this today?*

### Haggai 1:1-15 – Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *Minor Prophets Volume II Habakkuk – Malachi* pp 219-246 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 683, 1210 for detailed comment and additional information.

#### 1. *How does God describe Himself in Haggai 1:2? What does this mean?*

He is ***“the LORD of hosts.”*** The expression occurs 236 times in scripture, always in ***“the old testament”*** 2 Corinthians 3:14, the first mention is 1 Samuel 1:3 and the final mention is Malachi 4:3. The expression means what it says.

The expression ***“the LORD of hosts”*** occurs 97 times in the Minor Prophets, 14 times in Haggai; Haggai 1:2, 5, 7, 9, 14, 2:4, 6, 7, 8, 9 twice, 11, 23 twice i.e. 7 times per chapter. Only the Books of Zechariah and Malachi in the Minor Prophets have the expression ***“the LORD of hosts”*** more often than Haggai, 53 times or roughly 4 times per chapter for Zechariah, 24 times or 6 times per chapter for Malachi. Only Isaiah, 53 times i.e. less than once per chapter and Jeremiah, 69 times i.e. only slightly more than once per chapter, have the expression more often than Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

The 91 occurrences of the expression ***“the LORD of hosts”*** therefore account for well over a third of all the occurrences of this expression in the scripture and the Book of Haggai is foremost in the scripture with the number of occurrences per chapter.

Note that the 1611 AV1611 has ***“the Lord of hostes”*** in agreement with the 2011+ AV1611. This writer will always believe the sevenfold purified words of the AV1611, Psalm 12:6, 7 because it is ***“the king's word”*** 2 Samuel 24:4, ***“word...with authority and power”*** Luke 4:36 because ***“Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?”*** Ecclesiastes 8:4.

However, some modern editors have changed the AV1611 reading and it is useful to review the witnesses for and against an AV1611 reading.

The 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs, NLT have ***“the LORD Almighty.”*** This is clearly a different expression from ***“the LORD of hosts,”*** as even any ordinary dictionary will show, *almighty* referring to overwhelming strength or power and *hosts* to huge numbers.

The CEV, NCV have ***“the Lord All-powerful.”***

The RV, RSV, NRSV, NASV, NKJV, ESV, HCSB have ***“the LORD of hosts.”*** The ASV and Green's Interlinear Hebrew-English Version have ***“Jehovah of hosts.”***

The NET, New English Translation, has ***“the Lord who rules over all.”***

The NLV, New Life Version, has ***“the Lord of All.”***

The JB, NJB have ***“Yahweh Sabaoth.”***

The NWT has ***“Jehovah of armies.”***

The 1385/1395 Wycliffe Bible and the Bibles of the 16<sup>th</sup> century English Protestant Reformation; Coverdale, Great, Matthew, Bishops', Geneva have ***“the Lord of hosts.”***

The 1978, 1984 NIVs have a condescending note in the Preface p vii that the expression ***“the Lord of hosts”*** has ***“little meaning...for most readers today”*** and has therefore been changed to ***“the Lord Almighty,”*** supposedly still to ***“convey the sense of the Hebrew”*** though even Green doesn't agree.

Some modern editors, NLT, CEV, NCV, seem to agree with the NIV Preface p vii, some, NASV, NKJV, NRSV, ESV, HCSB, don't and others, NET, NLV, appear to have adopt-

ed compromise readings that partly support the AV1611 while even the cult versions, JB, NJB, NWT, have readings that tend towards the AV1611 reading.

This writer's view is that the testimony of the pre-1611 Bibles, unanimous on this occasion and the unbroken testimony of the 1611 AV1611 and 2011+ AV1611 is decisive, as always, certainly when set against the inconsistent witness of the post-1978 modern versions.

That the AV1611 reading "*the LORD of hosts*" is correct may be shown from a study of the expression "*the host of heaven*" that occurs 19 times in scripture. It is found that the Lord is "*the LORD of hosts*" because He has *two* hosts according to the expression "*the host of heaven*," as also *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* recognises.

"*The host of heaven*" refers to "*the firmament of the heaven*" Genesis 1:14, 15, 17 and what God set therein.

***"And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven"*** Deuteronomy 4:19.

***"And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven"*** 2 Kings 23:5.

See also Deuteronomy 17:3, 2 Kings 17:16, 21:3, 5, 23:4, 2 Chronicles 33:3, 5, Nehemiah 9:6, Isaiah 34:4, Jeremiah 8:2, 19:13, 33:22, Zephaniah 1:5, Acts 7:42, 16 references in all. Though less frequently i.e. three times, "*the host of heaven*" also refers to spirit beings, which can become visible with a physical presence.

***"And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left"*** 1 Kings 22:19.

***"Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left"*** 2 Chronicles 18:18.

***"And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them"*** Daniel 8:10 with Revelation 12:4, 7, 9 where "the stars of heaven" refer to "*Michael and his angels*" and "*the Devil, and Satan...and his angels*." See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 306-314, 325-326.

See also Luke 2:13-14 "***And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.***"

"*The LORD of hosts*" is Lord over *each* of the *two* hosts that the scripture terms "*the host of heaven*." Therefore, with even "***ye dragons, and all deeps: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word***" Psalm 148:7-8, the term "*the LORD of hosts*" incorporates *in context* all that of "*the LORD Almighty*" and more.

The dual usage of the expression "*the host of heaven*" reveals *the dual kingdoms* over which the Lord is King as "*the LORD of hosts*," namely the physical kingdom of "*the firmament of the heaven*" Genesis 1:14, 15, 17, which contains "*the earth*" surrounded

by “*the open firmament of heaven*” Genesis 1:20 (in which birds fly, they don’t fly in God) designated “*the kingdom of heaven*” Matthew 3:2 and “*the kingdom of God*” Matthew 6:33, which is a *spiritual* kingdom, because “*God is a Spirit*” John 4:24. Note this extract from the study 2 Timothy 2, *Word and Prayer* [www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php).

*The kingdom of heaven*, Matthew 8:11-12, 13:24, 25, 41, 44, 45, 47, 18:23, 20:1, 22:2, 25:1, 14-30 contrasted with Luke 19:12-27, the expression “*the kingdom of heaven*” being found only in Matthew, versus *the kingdom of God*, Luke 17:21, John 3:3, 5, Romans 14:17, 1 Corinthians 15:50. Note that some overlap occurs with “*the kingdom of heaven*” Matthew 8:11 without 8:12, 13:31, 33, 18:3, 19:14, 23, 24 and “*the kingdom of God*” Mark 10:23, 25, Luke 13:18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 18:16, 17, 25. This overlap leads to the two kingdoms getting confused as the same but they are different. See the definitive work on the two kingdoms by Dr Ruckman entitled *The Sure Word of Prophecy, The Kingdom of God Versus The Kingdom of Heaven*, especially pp 51-63, 71-77.

The Lord Jesus Christ is King over both kingdoms and all that inhabit them.

**“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”** Philippians 2:9-11.

**“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them”** Revelation 20:11.

**“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea...And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful”** Revelation 21:1, 5 i.e. not merely ‘a reliable translation.’

It should be added that the Lord has a *third* host, namely “*the whole family in heaven and earth*” Ephesians 3:15 or “*all his saints*” 1 Thessalonians 3:13 of whom “*Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints*” Jude 14.

“*The whole family in heaven and earth*” will eventually consist of eight groups, who inhabit both kingdoms; Old Testament saints i.e. Jewish and Gentile believers before and after the Mosaic Law, Church Age saints i.e. Christians, Jewish and Gentile believers from the Tribulation and Millennial believers. Note that Enoch’s figure is a generalised description in that even the Tribulation Gentile believers are said to be “**a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues**” Revelation 7:9. Moreover, Jewish saints alone whom the Lord resurrects at the Second Advent will be “*an exceeding great army*” Ezekiel 37:10. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1117, 1556, 1642.

The Lord is truly “*the LORD of hosts*” Haggai 1:2, all three of them. The emphasis on the term in the Books of the post-exilic period was no doubt vital for national revival. **“Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them”** 2 King 6:16.

Note that the expression “*the Lord Almighty*” is used once in scripture, with respect to *separation* not *integration* and *exclusivity* not *inclusivity*.

**“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”** 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.

Observe that God is a *divider*, not a *mixer*. Note:

**“God divided the light from the darkness”** Genesis 1:4.

**“God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament”** Genesis 1:7.

**“...the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven...which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven”** Deuteronomy 4:19.

**“When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel”** Deuteronomy 32:8. See also Exodus 8:22-24, Acts 17:24-27.

Note that the Devil is the *mixer* “*of the people*” i.e. EHRC, EMU, EU, UN, WCC etc.

**“For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man”** Isaiah 10:13 (!)

**“As the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land”** Joshua 14:5.

**“He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents”** Psalm 78:55.

**“But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name”** Isaiah 51:15 with Habakkuk 3:9 **“Thy bow was made quite naked, according to the oaths of the tribes, even thy word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers”** Second Advent.

**“And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath”** Revelation 16:19.

When the Lord Jesus Christ arrives at the First Advent, He is also a divider, not a mixer.

**“Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law”** Luke 12:51-53. See also John 7:43, 9:16, 10:19.

See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1259-1261, 1268, 1298, 1356, 1364-1365, 1536-1537 with respect to the kingdoms and division.

The division that the Lord Jesus Christ stated He would bring about testifies to His identity as **“the Lord Almighty”** 2 Corinthians 6:18 at the First Advent and indeed the **“Lord God Almighty”** at the Second Advent Revelation 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 21:22.

In sum, Paul uses the expression **“the Lord Almighty”** in 2 Corinthians 6:18 in part to testify to the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a different purpose from that of the expression **“the LORD of hosts”** that testifies to the ruler-ship of the Lord Jesus Christ as **“the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords”** 1 Timothy 6:15 of Whom John states **“And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS”** Revelation 19:16. See Philippians 2:9-11, Revelation 20:11, 21:1, 5 above.

2. *What are the same words used in Haggai 1:5, 7? How could we phrase this today?*

***“Consider your ways.” “Consider your ways.”***

Note that the term ***“consider”*** in scripture has the sense, applicable in Haggai 1:5, 7, of N.B. *nota bene* or note well [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nota\\_bene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nota_bene), in order to make a detailed report to a novice. God gave the command ***“Consider your ways”*** so that Israel’s wrongdoing in Haggai 1 would not be repeated by ***“the generation following.”***

***“Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following”*** Psalm 48:13.

Paul put the same challenge on his European readers in a spiritual sense i.e. ***“Consider your ways”*** both pre and post-salvation. He in effect challenges them to consider which set of ways is better.

***“What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life”*** Romans 6:21-22.

Paul’s whole ministry was aimed at urging individuals to ***“Consider your ways”*** with respect to ***“the right ways of the Lord”*** Acts 13:10 ***“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”*** Colossians 1:28. It should be the same for the Christian today e.g. giving out Christmas tracts at this time of the year i.e. November-December.

3. *In Haggai 1:6 what are the five actions followed by a surprising phrase?*

See the underlined words.

***“Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.”***

The actual result of each action is the opposite of the intended result. The same warning applies to the Christian, with respect to the danger of carnality or ***“honour to the satisfying of the flesh”*** Colossians 2:23 instead of spirituality with respect to ***“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God”*** Philippians 1:11.

***“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ”*** 1 Corinthians 3:1.

***“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 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”*** Galatians 6:7-8.

A famous actor once left the acting profession to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in an evangelistic ministry. He later went back to the acting profession with no further contribution to Christian ministry. His youngest son is also well known in the acting profession but appears to have no definite Christian testimony.

***“for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”***

It is prudent to apply Romans 13:14.

***“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”***

4. *What excuses do the people offer on not rebuilding the Lord's house?*

It's not the right time, Haggai 1:2 and it's not top priority (our own houses are), Haggai 1:4. One main reason for the people's reluctance to rebuild the Lord's house was the royal decree of Artaxerxes forbidding further construction on the temple. The date of the events is 520 BC and the events of Haggai 1 match those of Ezra 4, 5.

**"Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power. Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia"** Ezra 4:23-24.

However challenging, the Biblical response is Acts 5:29.

**"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."**

Making further practical application, observe that:

It's always the right time for salvation.

**"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"** 2 Corinthians 6:2.

It's always the right time to obey God's charge.

**"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine"** 2 Timothy 4:1-2.

It's always the right priority to give the Lord Jesus Christ the pre-eminence.

**"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence"** Colossians 1:18.

5. *How does the message of Haggai 1:4 differ from the one in Haggai 1:2?*

Haggai 1:2 is a report by **"the LORD of hosts"** on what **"This people say."**

Haggai 1:4 is a rebuke by **"the LORD of hosts"** according to **"the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet"** Haggai 1:3.

Typically, **"the LORD of hosts"** and **"This people"** are at loggerheads.

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"** Isaiah 55:8-9.

**"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God"** Luke 16:15.

Those with *“the mind of Christ”* 1 Corinthians 2:16 therefore should aim to fulfil 1 Corinthians 1:10.

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*

Kat Copeland and Sophie Hosking won Gold by being *“perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*



GOLD: Kat Copeland celebrates Olympic victory with sculling partner Sophie Hosking  
[www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/9858710.Everyone\\_s\\_crazy\\_for\\_Kat/](http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/9858710.Everyone_s_crazy_for_Kat/)

They were not clones, they were a cohort. In that respect they are good role models for any church aiming at *“gold, silver, precious stones...for the day”* 1 Corinthians 3:12-13.

6. *What is God’s solution to eliminate these disappointing expectations (Haggai 1:8)?*

In effect it is to apply Acts 5:29, by inspection of Haggai 1:8.

The king said *“Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until another commandment shall be given from me”* Ezra 4:21 i.e. cease and desist.

*“The Lord said “Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD”* 1 Chronicles 22:19 i.e. *“arise therefore, and build.”*

When challenged by their opponents, the builders of the house made answer that was recorded by the challengers as a distinct example with its aftermath of Psalm 76:10 *“Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee; the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.”*

*“And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up”* Ezra 5:11.

Ezra 5:11 is a great verse and one which by its outcome would prompt the Lord to say *“I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD”* Haggai 1:8.

The Christian’s testimony should prompt the same response from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”* 1 Corinthians 6:20, which should be memorised.

Note also, with respect to the latter part of Psalm 76:10 the response from *“Darius the king”* Ezra 6:1, who had succeeded *“Artaxerxes the king”* Ezra 4:11 to *“the adversaries*



*of Judah and Benjamin*” Ezra 4:1 insofar as Daniel 2:21 says of God that **“he removeth kings, and setteth up kings.”** This is also God’s solution with respect to Haggai 1:8.

**“Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence: Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place”** Ezra 6:6-7.

That is why Ezra says **“for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel”** Ezra 6:22.

7. Why has the sky withheld its dew and the earth its produce (Haggai 1:9)?

God withheld them according to Haggai 1:10 **“Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.”**

The dual reason is given in Haggai 1:9 **“Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.”** The establishment and maintenance of **“mine house”** was essential to the life of the nation of Israel as Solomon’s prayer in 1 Kings 8:22-62 reveal. See especially 1 Kings 8:35-36 in the context of Haggai 1:9-11.

**“When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.”**

Note God’s answer with respect to **“mine house.”**

**“And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually”** 1 Kings 9:3. Note also 2 Chronicles 6:12-42 and what God says in 2 Chronicles 7:12-22, especially 2 Chronicles 7:15-16.

**“Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.”**

If **“this house lie waste”** Haggai 1:2, the nation of Israel would **“lie waste.”** It was that simple. See *Question 8* for wider application. **“This house”** was peculiar to Israel but *the principle* that it embodied, of keeping short accounts with God, applies to any nation.

8. Why was there drought on the land and what was the cause of the great strain on society (Haggai 1:11)?

The reasons were the same as those given in answer to *Question 7*. See above.

The lesson *in principle* with respect to *Questions 7* and *8* for **“all the nations that forget God”** Psalm 9:17, including the UK, is in Jeremiah 18:7-10.

**“At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.”**

This is happening in the USA now, with a range of calamities including drought and failed crops as the following summary shows.

Note first the insightful words of Mrs Ruth Graham, late wife of evangelist Dr Billy Graham [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth\\_Graham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Graham), from 1965.

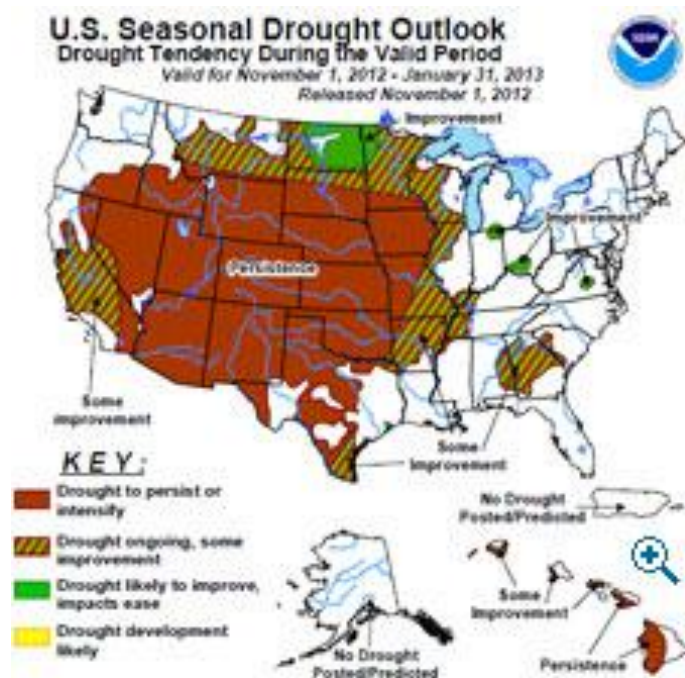
*“If God doesn’t punish America, He’ll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”* See [www.lifesitenews.com/news/billy-graham-if-god-smote-sodom-what-does-that-mean-for-an-america-that-abo](http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/billy-graham-if-god-smote-sodom-what-does-that-mean-for-an-america-that-abo), [pastorjimlaw.wordpress.com/](http://pastorjimlaw.wordpress.com/).

The judgement had already begun. The USA had 58,220 men killed in the Vietnam War 1961-1973 [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War), which the USA and its allies lost, for no real gain. ***“Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war”*** Isaiah 3:25.

Mrs Graham’s wise words have been corroborated independently by Dr Bob Jones Senior who said *“God won’t put up with America with what He puts up with from other countries, because America began with God.”* See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 994.

See John McTernan’s *Insights* [defendproclaimthefait.org/blog/?p=3019](http://defendproclaimthefait.org/blog/?p=3019)

*Since June, when Obama proclaimed the month as homosexual/Gay Pride month, America has been hit by everything but a massive earthquake. That month had record heat, record drought, record fires in the West. This led to record crop loss. Then an inland hurricane called a derecho, hit from Chicago to Washington, DC. Hurricane Isaac hit New Orleans during Southern Decadence and now Hurricane Sandy hit New York six-days after the state highest court sealed homosexual “marriage”. The nation is paying an incredible price making sin an ordinance. This is not the end but the beginning unless the church acts to repent and cry out for an outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit. There is not much time left. America has turned its back on God and is now offending His holiness.*



### The Magnitude of the US Drought Nov 2012

The UK is very similar to the USA with respect to *making sin an ordinance* e.g. the so-called ordination of so-called women bishops:

*‘There are very positive things, but as a C of E priest I still get glares’* – Mother Christine Cargill, a curate in the joint parish of St Mary with All Souls, Kilburn, and St James, West Hampstead.

How ‘Mother’ Cargill would fulfil 1 Timothy 3:1-2 remains a mystery.

***“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife...”***

God’s judgement on the UK is spelled out in Ezekiel 39:6. It cannot be long delayed.

***“And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.”***

They shall certainly know Hebrews 12:29 ***“For our God is a consuming fire.”***

It should be noted that this country’s governance is predicated on *“the royal law”* James 2:8 [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/), the 1611 Authorized King James Holy Bible. Noting Ecclesiastes 8:4 *“Where the word of a king is, there is power”* and *“that God is no respecter of persons”* Acts 10:34, *“the king’s word”* 2 Samuel 24:4 should be borne in mind by all of the Lord’s people today with respect to right observance of *“the royal law”* James 2:8. King Darius is the human agent speaking. See *Question 6*.

***“Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this”*** Ezra 6:11.

Moral: Don’t mess with the KJB. God will mess with you, your brain, your family, your community and your nation. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *Minor Prophets Volume II Habakkuk – Malachi* p 198.

Additional Note: *Church of England general synod votes against women bishops* [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20415689](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20415689). ***“Now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God”*** Ezra 9:8.

However, *“the devil...departed from him for a season”* Luke 4:8 so naturally, the anti-Biblicists vow to continue their opposition to *“the scripture of truth”* Daniel 10:21.

*The Rev Rachel Weir, chairwoman of Watch* [the outfit campaigning for a breach of 1 Timothy 3:1-2], said *“This is a tragic day for the Church of England after so many years of debate and after all our attempts at compromise. Despite this disappointing setback, Watch will continue to campaign for the full acceptance of women’s gifts of leadership in the Church’s life.”* Stephen gives God’s evaluation of ‘Rev’ Rachel Weir and Watch:

***“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye”*** Acts 7:51.



‘Mother’ Christine Cargill

[www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9688084/Women-bishops-judgment-day-at-last.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9688084/Women-bishops-judgment-day-at-last.html)

9. What should we understand about God's involvement in:

- a. Society
- b. The church
- c. Does He still do this today?

God works via *"the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power"* and *"the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God"* Acts 1:7, 2:23.

- His work is real, merciful and faithful.  
"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" Lamentations 3:22-23.
- His work is consistent with scripture.  
"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" Isaiah 55:11.
- His work is a reflection of God's nature.  
"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD" Jeremiah 9:23-24.
- His work is enlightening unailing and not subject to *"the fashion of this world"* 1 Corinthians 7:31.  
"The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations" Psalm 33:11.
- His work is discriminatory and divisive, see Question 1.  
"...but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed" 1 Samuel 2:30.
- His work is resolute against evil.  
"For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man" Psalm 5:4-6. Leasing is defined as deceitfulness.
- His work is a promised vindication of God's servants, even if they get martyred. See the Ruckman Reference Bible pp 975, 985.  
"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD" Isaiah 54:17.  
"For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" Isaiah 66:2. Amen.