



Does God Cause Turmoil?

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This is a powerful and necessary question—
because Haggai forces us to wrestle with a
God who doesn't just comfort, but
confronts.



Haggai 1:8–9

“Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the Lord.

“You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. **Why?** declares the Lord Almighty. **Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.”**

God does not hint.
God does not suggest.
God **states plainly**: “*I blew it away.*”



This wasn't Satan.
This wasn't random.
This was **divine disruption**.



So... does God cause turmoil?



Yes—but not in the way people fear.

Source

Satan

Fallen world

God

Purpose

To destroy, deceive, and steal

Natural consequence of brokenness

To **correct, redirect, and realign**

Haggai 1 shows **God Himself** intervening to stop Israel's misplaced priorities.

This was not punishment.
This was **holy interruption**.

Why would God “blow away” their efforts?

- Because Israel was prospering **without God being central.**
- They had:
- Finished their own homes
- Built their lives
- Stabilized their finances
- But left **God’s house in ruins.**
- So God allowed:
- Crop failure
- Financial frustration
- Emotional exhaustion
- Not because He hated them...
...but because **He refused to let them succeed without Him.**

This is not Satan's work



Satan's goal is **separation**.
God's discipline produces **restoration**.



Look at the difference:

Satan

Breaks you down

Pushes you from God

Wants destruction

Produces shame

- Satan tempts.
God **confronts**.
- And in Haggai, God confronts a distracted people.

God

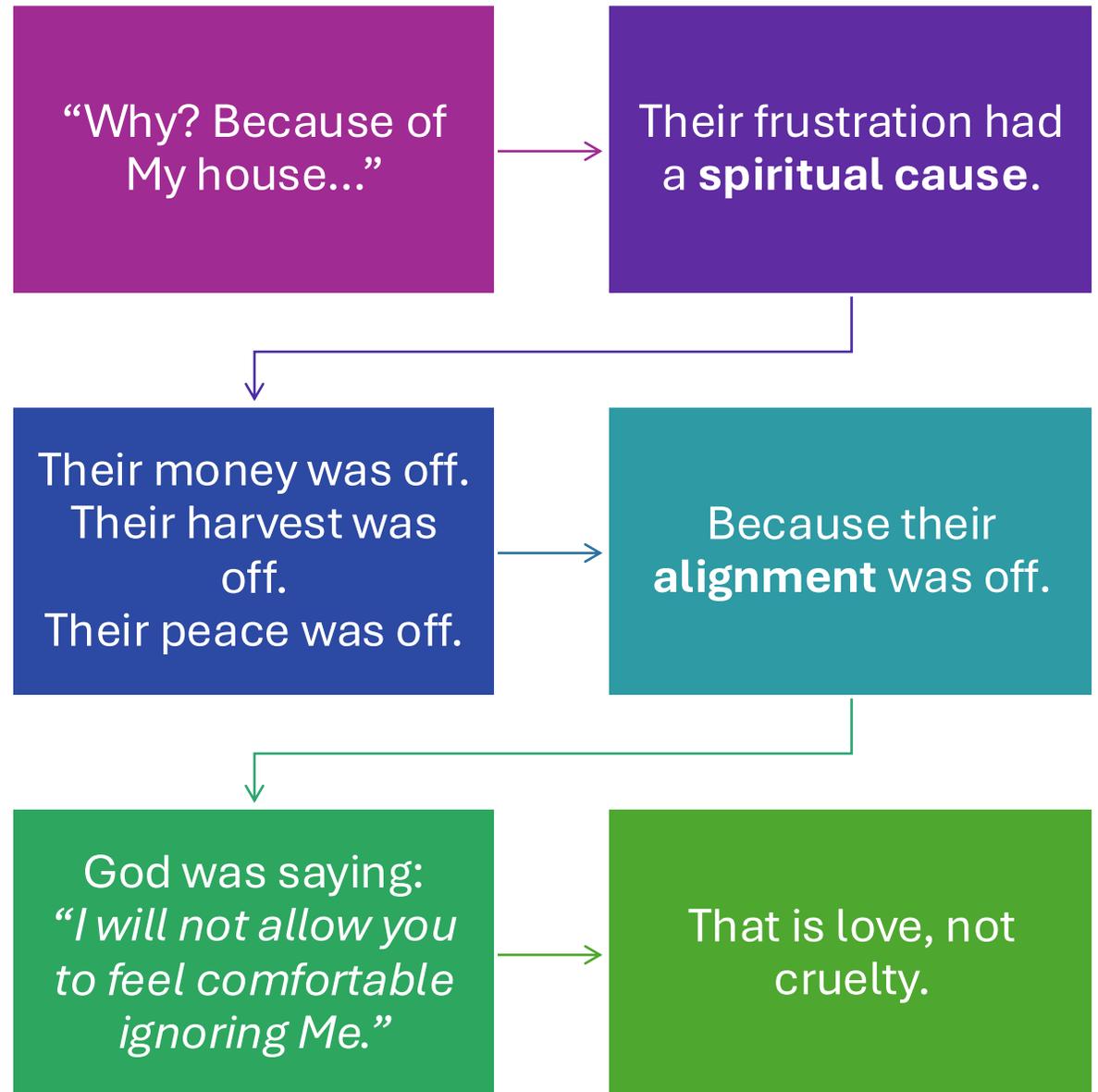
Breaks what doesn't belong

Pushes you back to God

Wants repentance

Produces clarity

Verse 9 is the key



What this means for us

Sometimes the reason things feel blocked is not because the devil is winning —
It's because **God is recalibrating.**

When:

- Your effort yields little
- Your labor feels empty
- Your plans collapse
- Your progress keeps getting erased

God may be saying:
“You’re building everything but Me.”

So He lets it shake.

Not to destroy you...
But to **reorder you.**

Deuteronomy 8:17–18

¹⁷ then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’

¹⁸ “And you shall remember the Lord your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may ^[h]establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

- Israel didn’t reject God — they just **forgot Him** while succeeding.
- That’s Haggai all over again:
They had houses. Crops. Stability.
But God was no longer the center.

Amos 4:6–11

I gave you absolutely nothing to eat^[b] in all your cities,
a shortage of food in all your communities,
yet you did not return to me.

This is the LORD's declaration.

⁷I also withheld the rain from you
while there were still three months until harvest.

I sent rain on one city
but no rain on another.

One field received rain
while a field with no rain withered.

⁸Two or three cities staggered
to another city to drink water
but were not satisfied,
yet you did not return to me.

This is the LORD's declaration.

⁹I struck you with blight and mildew;
the locust devoured
your many gardens and vineyards,
your fig trees and olive trees,
yet you did not return to me.

This is the LORD's declaration.

¹⁰I sent plagues like those of Egypt;
I killed your young men with the sword,
along with your captured horses.

I caused the stench of your camp
to fill your nostrils,
yet you did not return to me.

This is the LORD's declaration.

¹¹I overthrew some of you
as ^[c]overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
and you were like a burning stick
snatched from a fire,
yet you did not return to me—

This is the LORD's declaration.

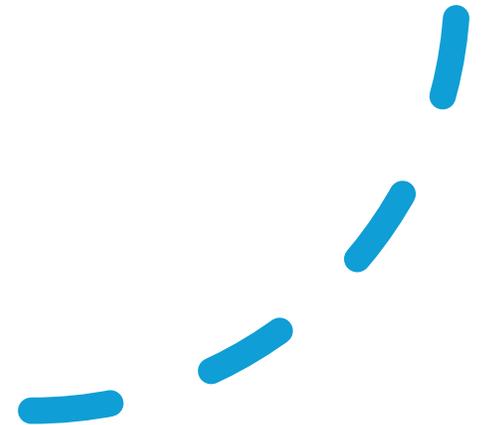


That is exactly Haggai's message.

- Not Satan
 - Not coincidence.
 - God **using disruption to call His people back.**
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Proverbs 3:11–12

- God does not discipline enemies.
He disciplines **children**.
- Haggai is a father correcting His house.



Hebrews

12:5–11

- God Shakes What Doesn't Belong
- Reason for discouragement among these Jewish Christians was because they saw no reason why God would allow difficult time to arise
- They forgot the principles regarding chastening of the Lord
- Much of the difficulty of in the Christian life comes from those 3 words: YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN
- Chastening is **NOT** a sign of rejection
- God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness...
No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness.”

Matthew 6:33

This must be the rule of our life when ordering our priorities

“Seek first the kingdom of God... and all these things shall be added to you.”

Haggai shows what happens when you reverse the order.

Revelation 3:17–19

The Laodicean Church - lacked a sense of spiritual poverty

There were the opposite of Matthew 5:3...

The put their in material prosperity, in outward luxury, and physical health

“You say, ‘I am rich... I need nothing.’
But you do not realize you are wretched...
Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.”

That’s Haggai in the New Testament.

Comfortable. Successful. Spiritually misaligned.

Big Theological Truth

Scripture indicates God controls world events and can cause calamities

Turmoil is often used to train believers and refine their character

God may allow crises, chaos to break human self-reliance

Haggai is not a random story.

It is a **biblical principle: God will lovingly destabilize what replaces Him.**

He doesn't do it to destroy us.

He does it so we won't be destroyed by what we're building without Him.