



- Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 15:1-19



- God's Warning to Asa: 2 Chron. 15:1-19
 - Israel without God, teaching priest, and law
 - No peace, great disturbances afflicted
 - broken in pieces
 - God troubled them



**For a long time Israel
was without the true God**
(vs. 3)

**But you, take courage!
Do not let your hands be weak,
for your work shall be rewarded.”**
(vs. 7)

2 Chronicles 15:1-19

- Prophecy to Asa, king of Judah
 - Take courage
 - Do not let your hands be weak
 - Work rewarded



**For a long time Israel
was without the true God**
(vs. 3)

**But you, take courage!
Do not let your hands be weak,
for your work shall be rewarded.”**
(vs. 7)

2 Chronicles 15:1-19

- Asa heard
 - took courage
 - put away idols in Judah, Benjamin, and Ephraim
 - repaired altar



- vs. 7: Do not let your hands be weak
- Why is God's warning to Asa important to us?
 - Work to be done to help God's people get back to where they should be.
 - But it requires effort, dedication, going the distance
 - Easy to become weary, give-up
 - But there will be opposition
 - Even though things are very bad
 - Some people oppose change, sometimes strongly, violently
- What happens when our hands are weak?



- “Weak” (7503) means
 - relax, withdraw, be idle, drop, abandon, forsake, let go, slack
- “Slack” (7423) means:
 - laziness, neglect, lack of diligence or attention, inadequate
- It doesn’t mean that you are doing nothing.



**Why do our hands
become weak?**

Why do our hands become weak?



Adversity

**If you faint in the day of adversity,
your strength is small.**

Proverbs 24:10

- Proverbs 24:10: If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.
- We will face adversity in our lives.
- How will we react? Will we keep trusting in God? Will we give up?



- Joshua 18:3: So Joshua said to the people of Israel, “How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you?”
- God had provided land
 - “land subdued before them”
 - God had given them the land
- Why did they delay?
 - Battle weary? about 7 years to conquer Canaan
 - Fear of change? Living as nomads, large group for a long time
 -

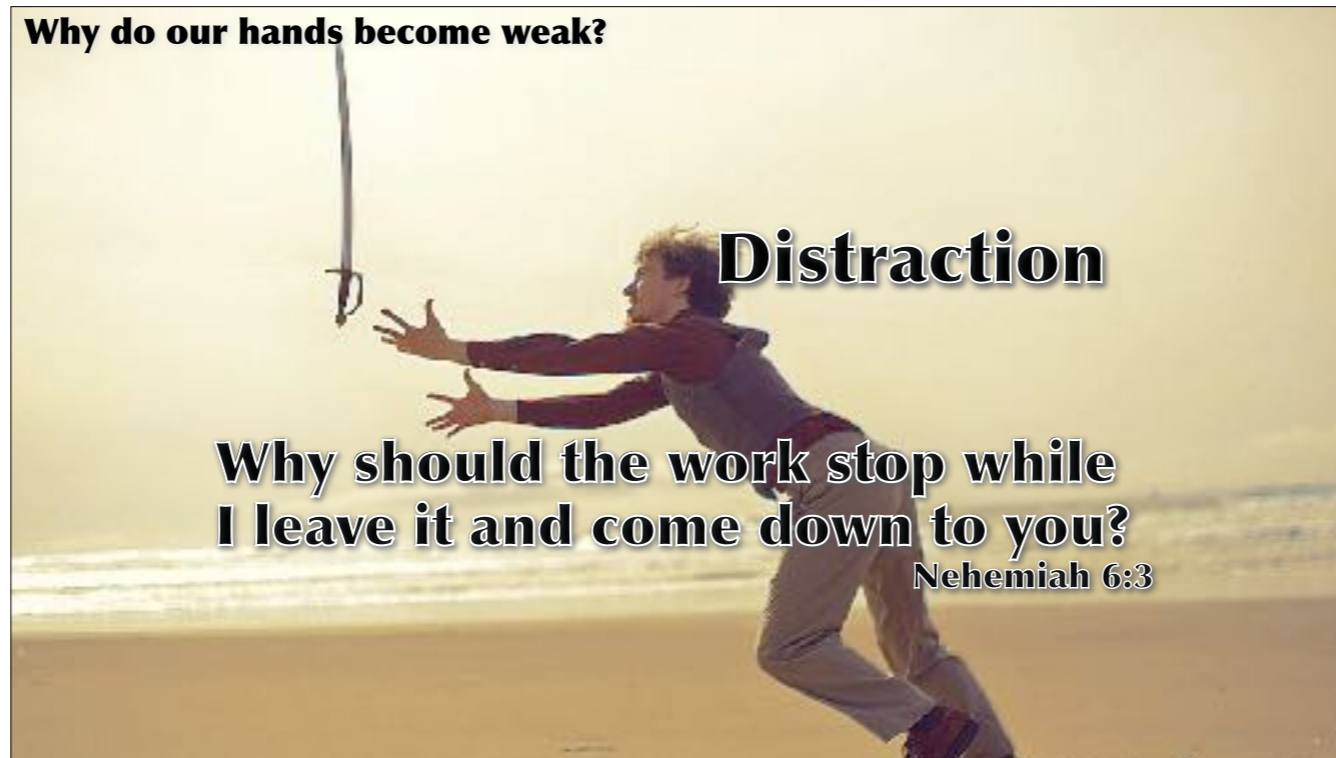
Why do our hands become weak?

Discouragement & Fear

**Then the people of the land
discouraged the people of Judah
and made them afraid to build**

Ezra 4:4

- Ezra 4:4: Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build
- Others may discourage us
 - Oppose our work, frustrate
 - False offers to help
 - We will build alone
- Discouragement may lead to fear
 - Don't have power or will to cope with opposition.
 - Wait for a better time
 - Too much
 - Alone



- Nehemiah 6:2-4: 2 Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.” But they intended to do me harm.
3 And I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I **leave** it and come down to you?” 4
And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.
- Enemies: let’s meet together
 - intended to do Nehemiah harm
- Nehemiah
 - Why should work stop while I leave it and come down to you?
- Distraction!



Why do our hands become weak?

Fear

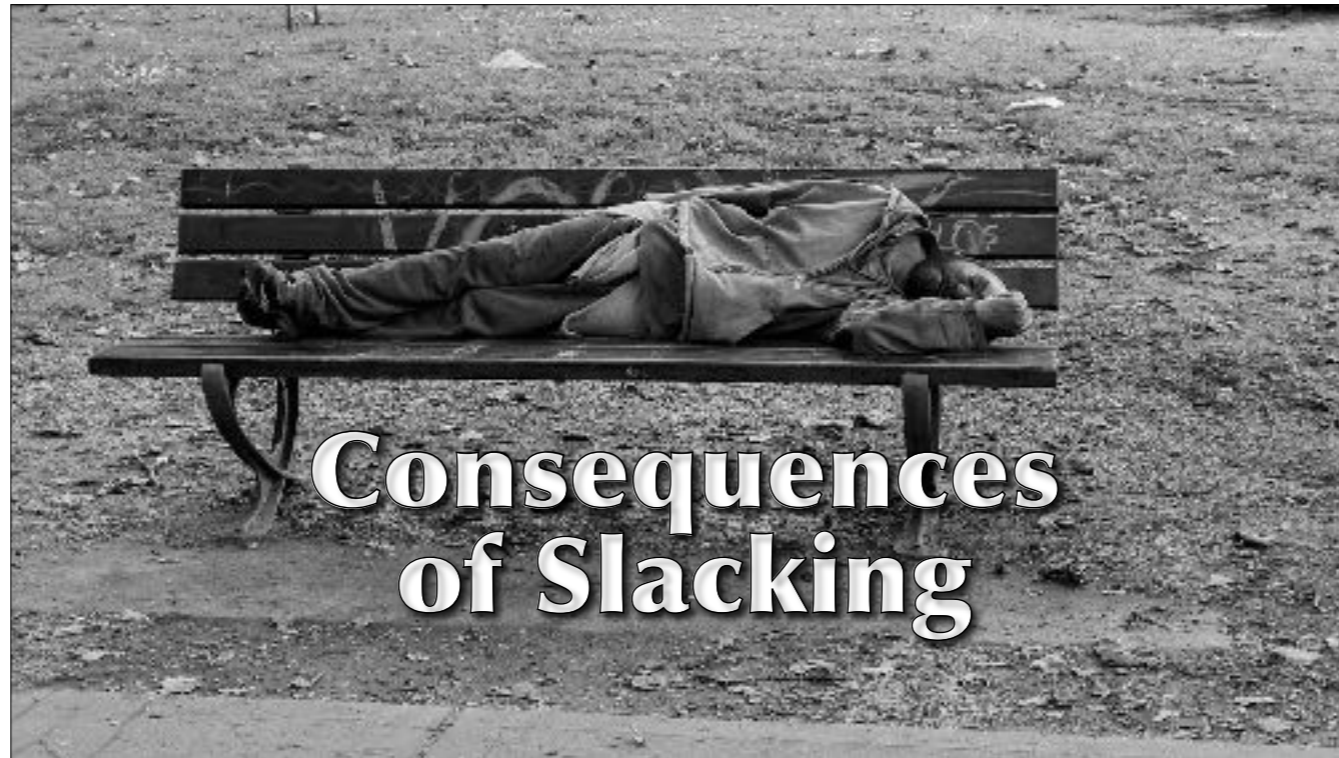
For they all wanted to frighten us,
thinking, "Their hands will drop from
the work, and it will not be done."

Nehemiah 6:9

- Nehemiah 6:9: For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.
- People
 - Enemies: Rumor
 - intend to rebel
 - king in Judah
- Nehemiah
 - No, inventing from own mind
 - Frighten us
 - hands will drop from the work
 - **Prayer:** O God, strengthen my hands

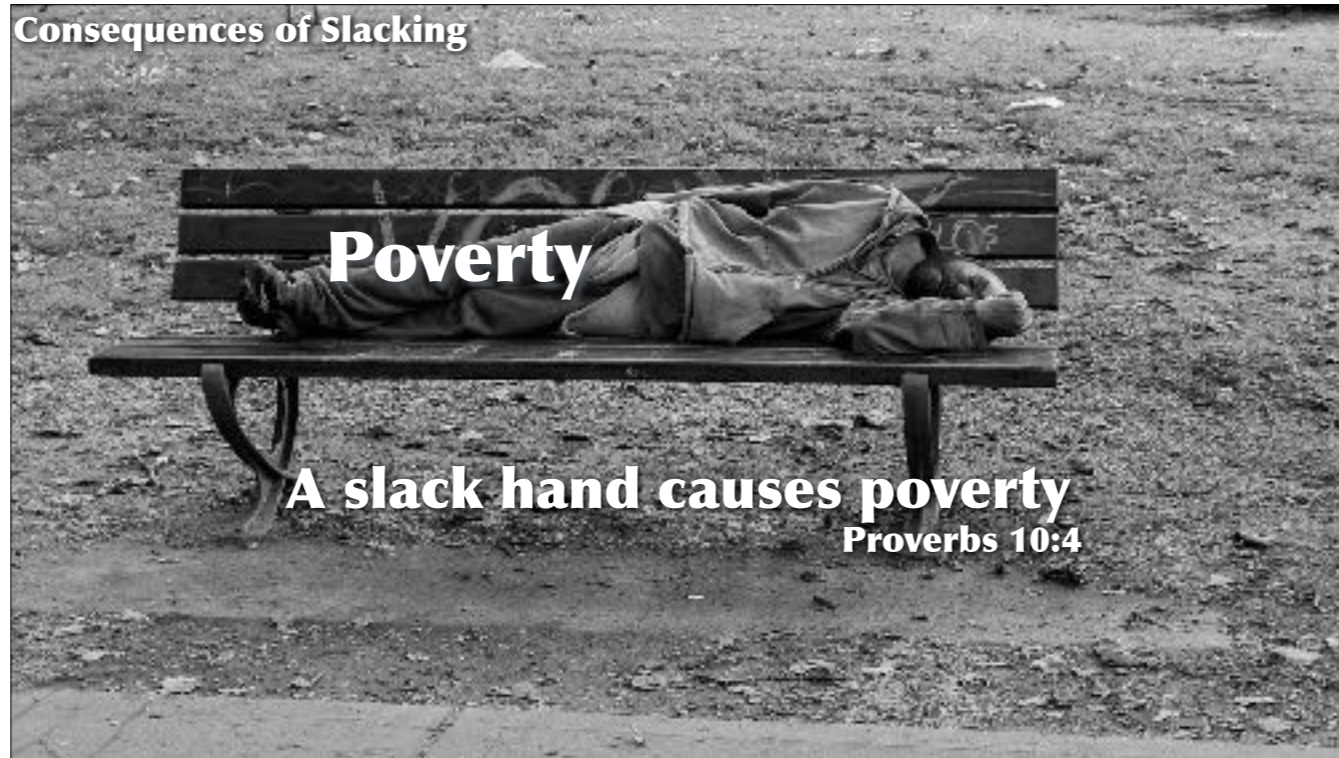


- Isaiah 13:6-8 (ESV) 6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! 7 Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt. 8 They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame.
- God's judgment/destruction
 - hands feeble
 - hearts melt
 - dismayed
 - pangs and agony
- Our sin, rebellion: judgment
 - Should move us to repent.
 - Work
 - Revelation 2:5 (ESV) 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent, and do the works you did at first.** If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.



Consequences of Slacking

Consequences of Slacking



- Proverbs 10:4 (ESV Strong's) 4 A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Consequences of Slacking

Don't Finish

Whoever is slothful will not roast his game
Proverbs 12:27



- Proverbs 12:27: Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.
- Doesn't finish what he has started... hunger

Consequences of Slacking

Deep Sleep & Hunger

**Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep,
and an idle person will suffer hunger.**

Proverbs 19:15

- Proverbs 19:15: Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

Consequences of Slacking

Forced Labor

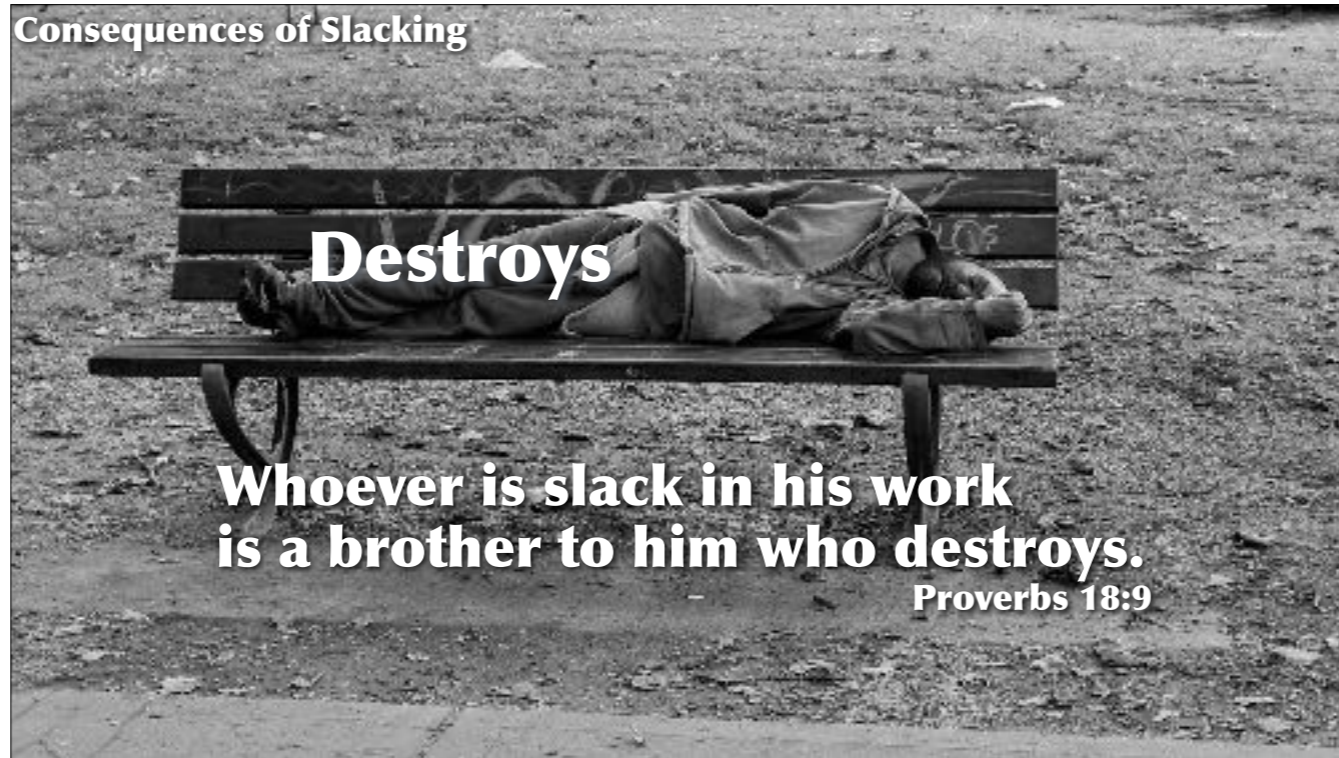
the slothful will be put to forced labor

Proverbs 12:24

- Proverbs 12:24 (ESV Strong's) 24 The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

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Consequences of Slacking



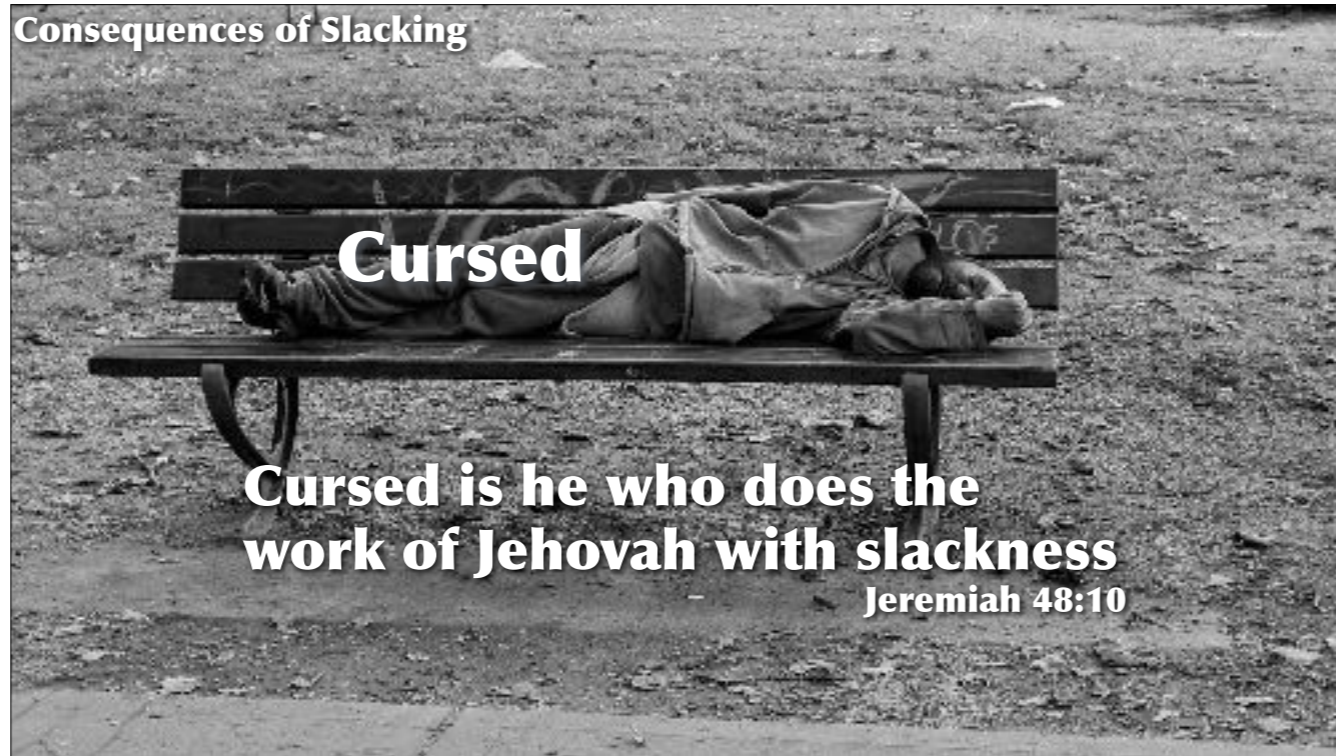
Destroys

**Whoever is slack in his work
is a brother to him who destroys.**
Proverbs 18:9

- Proverbs 18:9 (ESV) 9 Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

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Consequences of Slacking



- Jeremiah 48:10 (ESV) “Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord with slackness, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from bloodshed.
- Jehovah sending Babylon to destroy Moab.
 - Babylon was doing the “work of Jehovah”
 - Must not be slack!
- How much more true for Jehovah’s own people?
 - Not doing nothing.
 - Work, but with slackness.
- Our Father desires that we work with diligence.




- Jehovah Your God Is In Your Midst
- God's people have always struggled with this.
- Zephaniah 3:14-20



- Zephaniah 3:14-20 (ESV) 14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. 18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

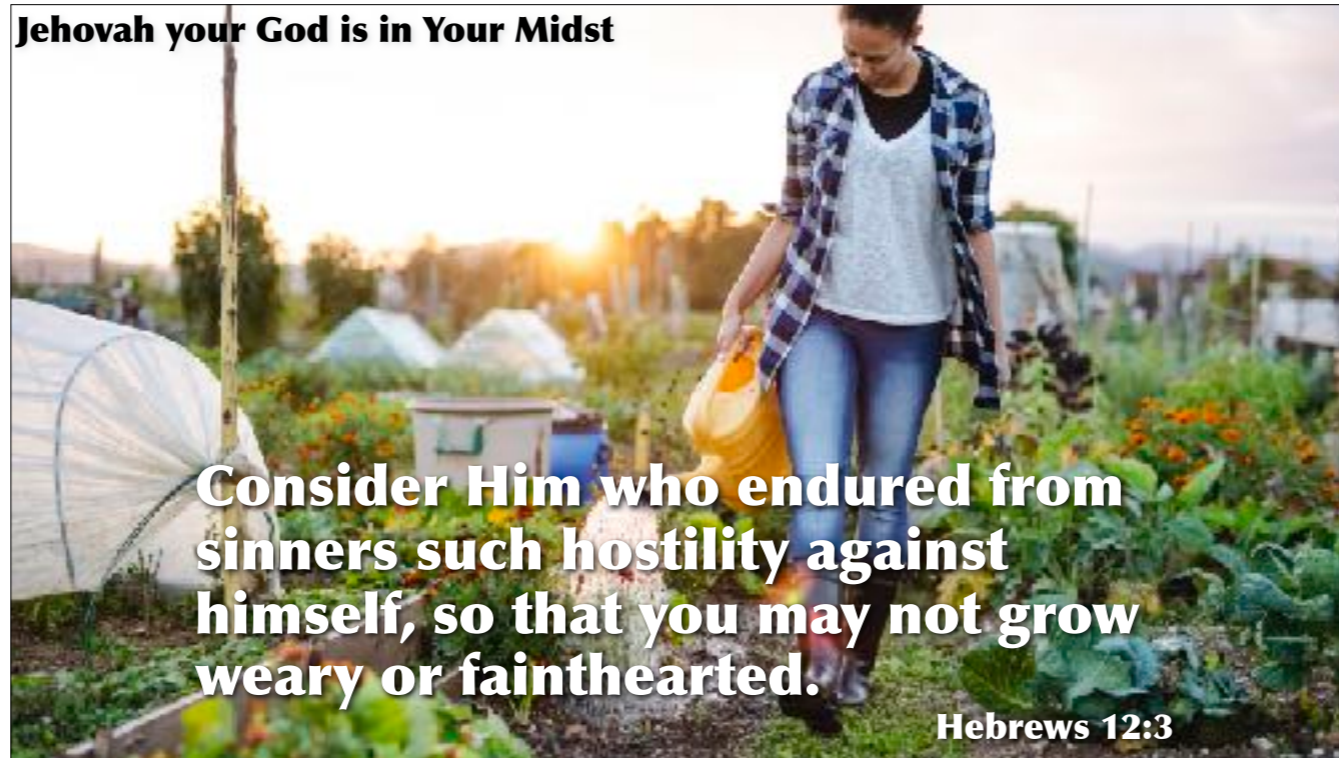
Jehovah your God is in Your Midst



**Jehovah your God is in your midst,
A Mighty One who will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing.**
Zephaniah 3:17

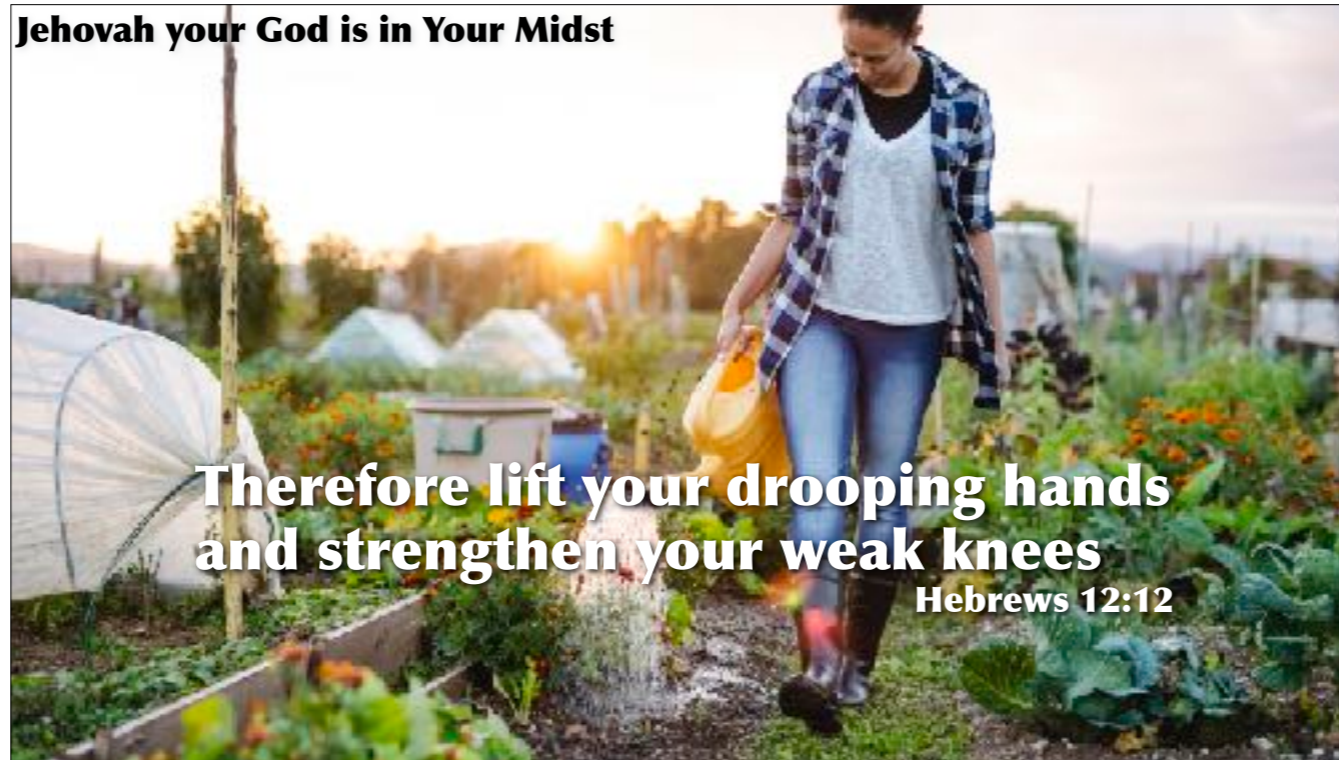
- Rejoice
 - Judgments taken away
 - Cleared away enemies
- Said in Jerusalem
 - Fear not
 - Let not hands grow **weak**
 - God is in your midst
 - mighty too save
 - rejoice over with gladness
 - quiet you by his love
 - exult over you with loud singing
 - Festival
 - No more suffering

Jehovah your God is in Your Midst



- Look to Jesus
- Hebrews 12:3 (ESV) 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Jehovah your God is in Your Midst



**Therefore lift your drooping hands
and strengthen your weak knees**

Hebrews 12:12

- Help Each other!
- Hebrews 12:12-13 (ESV) 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Jehovah your God is in Your Midst



Am I Slacking?

- Being a disciple means living my life in the world
 - Doesn't mean that all I do is sit in church building worshipping.
 - loving wife is doing the work God would have me to do: parent, career.
 - Am I being the salt of the earth and the light of the world?
- Am I being a slacker?
 - Are my hands weak in serving my King?
 - What can I do today to serve my king?



Jehovah your God is in Your Midst

But now, O God, strengthen my hands.
Nehemiah 6:9

- Nehemiah 6:9: For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.” But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Slackers

Proverbs 18:9

Synopsis: Jehovah encouraged Asa to not have weak hands in the tasks that he faced of bringing God's people back to Him. In this lesson we'll look at why our hands become weak, we'll consider the consequences of slacking, and the joy we find when Jehovah is in our midst so that our hands can be strong.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”