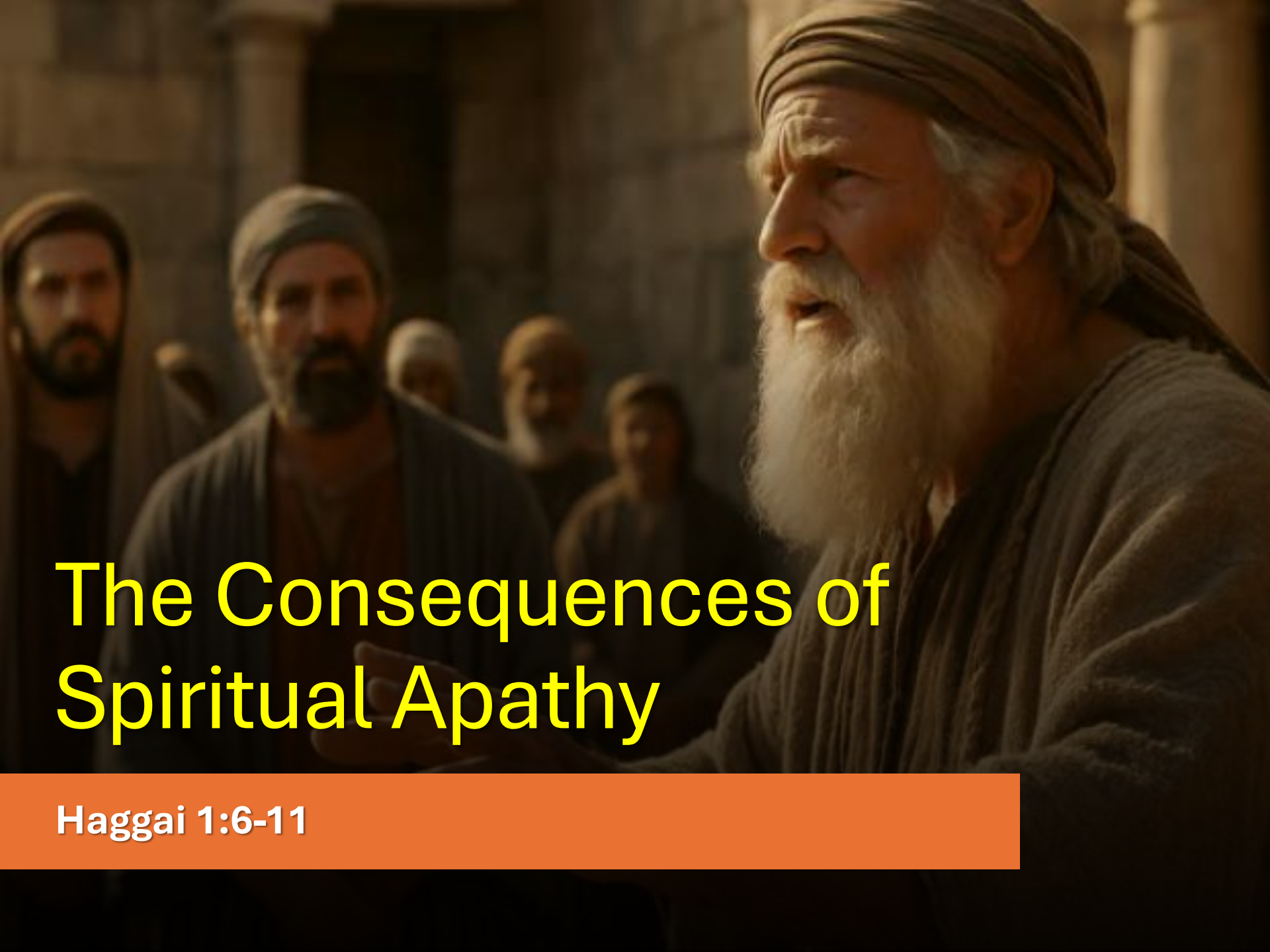


A man with a long white beard and a turban, likely a prophet, is shown in profile, speaking to a group of people. The background is a stone building with columns. The text "The Consequences of Spiritual Apathy" is overlaid in yellow.

The Consequences of Spiritual Apathy

Haggai 1:6-11

Relationship With God Was Marred

- The people's relationship with God was marred.
- God referred to Haggai's self-centered, ungrateful, worldly-minded, spiritually apathetic contemporaries as THIS people, not My people.
- The sin of the people resulted in a marring, a breakdown in their special relationship with God.
- God no longer addressed them in gentle, loving affectionate tones.

A Christian's Relationship with God

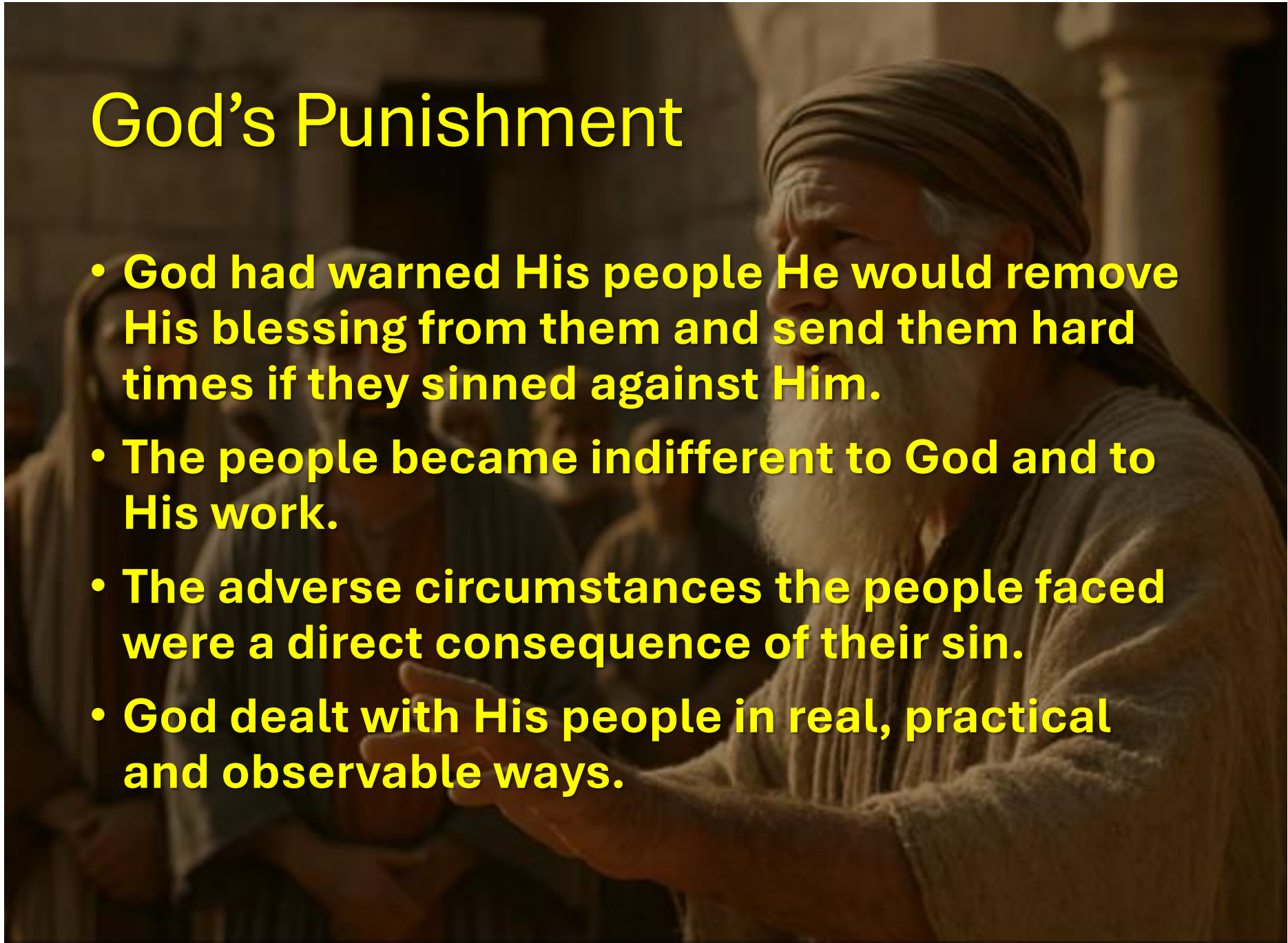
- When a person is born again of God's Holy Spirit, God becomes their Father and they become His child.
- When a believer sins and refuses to confess, their relationship with God is adversely affected.
- The relationship becomes marred as a result of sin.
- Until you confess your sin and truly repent of it, your relationship with God will remain marred.

Blessing of God Is Withheld

- God's people were dependent upon good harvests.
- The people had sown profusely and with great expectation, but all their labor was in vain.
- What formerly had bought luxuries now had to be used to pay for the bare necessities of life.
- God withheld His blessing from them because of their sin.

God's Punishment

- God had warned His people He would remove His blessing from them and send them hard times if they sinned against Him.
- The people became indifferent to God and to His work.
- The adverse circumstances the people faced were a direct consequence of their sin.
- God dealt with His people in real, practical and observable ways.



God Who Controls

- **God delights to pour out blessings upon His children.**
- **When God's people become self-centered and worldly-minded, putting themselves and their own interests first, He often responds by actively pursuing a chastening policy against them.**
- **Sometimes God has to chasten us in order to get us to take time out and reassess our priorities in life.**
- **Sometimes God will withhold blessings in order to make us think about our spiritual condition.**

Conclusion

- God calls His people to give serious thought to what is happening to them.
- Has God been speaking to some of you in this way.
- *“Whom the Lord loves He chastens.”*
- It is not pleasant when God chastens His people;

