

Message #6

Haggai 2:20-23

Haggai is a book that is part of the Minor Prophets. **Haggai was a prophet.** A prophet had two main responsibilities: 1) To forth-tell the truth of God's word; 2) To foretell the truth of God's future.

Now Haggai's message to this point was aimed straight at three different targets:

- 1) It was aimed at Zerubbabel the governor.
- 2) It was aimed at Joshua the priest.
- 3) It was aimed at Israel, the remnant of people.

God had used Haggai to tell the people that they needed to make a decision to get their focus back on God. They needed to focus on a right relationship with Him. They needed to be clean and pure and they needed to rebuild the Temple.

The relationship was more than just one of doing religious works; it was about being clean. If they would purpose to be clean, God would pronounce blessings on them.

Verse 20 opens with the statement that God's word came "**to Haggai**" a second time on the same day. On the 24th day of the 9th month, God's word came again to Haggai.

But this time there are two differences:

- 1) Haggai's final message was specifically to be given to Zerubbabel.
- 2) Haggai's final message was futuristically given concerning prophecy.

To this point, the message of Haggai has been designed to motivate the people in the present, but this final message to Zerubbabel is about the future. This final message of the book is not Haggai forth-telling the word of God; it is Haggai foretelling the future.

So far, here is what we have seen in this book:

- 1) God's word was given through Haggai on the 1st day of the 6th month. 1:1
- 2) God's word was given on the 24th day of the 6th month. 1:15 - 23 days after first message
- 3) God's word was given on the 21st day of the 7th month. 2:1 - 50 days after first message
- 4) God's word was given on the 24th day of the 9th month. 2:10 - 113 days after first message
- 5) God's word was reinforced as being given on the 24th day of the 9th month. 2:18
- 6) God's word was given on the 24th day of the 9th month. **2:20**

Now we may notice from **verse 20** that the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the 24th day. This was the second specific message God gave to Haggai on the same day.

The preposition "to" again emphasizes that not only is God speaking through Haggai, but He is speaking directly to Haggai. This is important because what Haggai will reveal here is significant.

Now this specific final message is given specifically to Zerubbabel and the message is this:

HAGGAI'S FINAL MESSAGE TO ZERUBBABEL IS THAT GOD WILL POUR OUT HIS WRATH IN THE FUTURE, BUT WILL ESTABLISH A GLORIOUS DAVIDIC KINGDOM FOR ISRAEL ON EARTH THAT WILL HONOR ZERUBBABEL.

Now in **verse 21** we read “speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah.” So this is a specific message for him and to him and it is a wonderful message. It is more wonderful than most will ever understand.

This is not addressed to the priest and it is not addressed to the people. It is specifically addressed to the governor.

Zerubbabel was the governor of Judah. He was in the Davidic line. He was the grandson of Jehoiachin (I Chronicles 3:17-19).

Jehoiachin went by two different names - Coniah and Jeconiah. He was the king of Judah when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem (II Kings 24:12-15). He only reigned for three months as king (II Kings 24:8). He was an evil king and Nebuchadnezzar removed him and replaced him with Zedekiah.

Now Jehoiachin was so evil that God made a specific declaration about him through the prophet Jeremiah, 70-100 years before Haggai. The prediction is found in **Jeremiah 22:24-30**. In this passage, Jeremiah says no one from this human line will be permitted to sit on the Davidic Throne and wear a signet ring. No descendant of Jehoiachin will be permitted to be on that throne.

Now turn the clock ahead from 630 BC and the time of Jeremiah, to 520 BC and the time of Haggai. Haggai is given a specific message from God to give to Zerubbabel.

The message that he will give him is that He will choose a key political leader “on that day.” How is that possible? How would it be possible to sit on a throne Jeremiah said, upon which no one may sit?

The answer lies, as we will see, in the reality that one would have to come through the Davidic line that would bypass the sinful seed lineage. In other words, a non-sinful Person would have to come through the Davidic line to make it possible for him to be on that Davidic throne and that Person, as this text will eschatologically reveal, is none other than Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the One who makes it possible for the kingly line of David to be preserved so who ends up on the Throne is a righteous King. Jesus Christ makes it possible for not only Zerubbabel to be there, but every other member of the Davidic family.

Jesus Christ was the legal son of Joseph, a physical descendant of Solomon and Jehoiachin or Jeconiah (Matt. 1:12-16; Luke 3:23-31).

God will literally honor Zerubbabel, and every time he sees Jesus Christ in that Kingdom, he will realize that He came through his family line.

God has made a covenant with Abraham called the Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:4-21; 17:1-8; 22:15-18). God has made a covenant with David called the Davidic covenant (II Sam. 7:12-16; I Chron. 17:1-3). God has made a futuristic New Covenant that will fulfill everything made in the Abrahamic Covenant and the Davidic Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Is. 61:8-9; Ez. 37:21-28).

In these covenants God has legally guaranteed that Israel will have a land and will be a great nation esteemed by all nations of the world and will be a Kingdom ruled by the royal family of David.

The New Covenant affirms there will come a time when God will fulfill every one of these promises.

Now as Haggai brings his book to an end, there are three final prophetic points that God makes that clearly are connected to a futuristic time:

PROPHETIC POINT #1 – God is going to shake the heavens and the earth. **2:21**

This language of “shaking the heavens and the earth” has to do with Divine judgment. Now some have said this refers to the upcoming invasions of Greece or Rome. But we know that cannot be true because of what we learn from the writer of Hebrews.

Now this is a critical eschatological event. We learn a great deal about this event in **Hebrews 12:25-29**, which, as we pointed out previously, quotes this very text.

“See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on the earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. **Hebrews 12:25**

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.’ **Hebrews 12:26**

This expression ‘Yet once more’ denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. **Hebrews 12:27**

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; **Hebrews 12:28**

For our God is a consuming fire.” **Hebrews 12:29**

God shook Mt. Sinai when He gave the Law to Israel (Ex. 19:18). God shook the earth the moment Jesus Christ died (Matt. 27:51). Haggai says there is coming a moment when He will shake the Heavens and the Earth one more time. The writer of Hebrews confirms that it had not happened when Hebrews was written but was yet in the future.

We know that the shaking of the earth and the heavens will be a key part of judgment in the Great Tribulation that leads to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The shaking of the heavens and the earth is clearly connected to **verse 22**, which have to do with when God overthrows world powers and that will occur in the Great Tribulation and when Jesus Christ returns.

PROPHETIC POINT #2 – God is going to overthrow and destroy all world powers. **2:22**

As we have mentioned from Daniel and Revelation, God views the political powers of this earth as beasts. Most political powers of the world have no interest in accurately understanding and applying the Bible. So God will overthrow them.

The word “overthrow” is the same word that is often used concerning Sodom and Gomorrah. If we look at what God actually did in Genesis 19, He destroyed those cities by raining fire and brimstone on them (Gen. 19:24-25). We may assume that God will do that kind of thing again specifically we know during the Great Tribulation.

The prediction Haggai is making in **verse 22** is amazing:

1) God will destroy and overthrow thrones.

It is interesting to note that in Hebrew the noun “thrones” (kiseh) is singular and not plural. It may be a reference to the Satanic throne that is dominating all world power kingdoms on earth.

2) God will destroy and overthrow kingdoms.

3) God will destroy and overthrow the power of the kingdoms.

4) God will destroy and overthrow all military powers.

God wanted Zerubbabel to know that He will eventually take over the world and rid the world of all evil powers.

PROPHETIC POINT #3 – God is going to elevate Zerubbabel at that time. **2:23**

When God overthrows world powers and establishes His kingdom on this earth, Zerubbabel will be raised up and honored. We believe this moment will occur at the end of the Tribulation in the resurrection referred to by Daniel in Daniel 12:1-2.

Notice from Haggai 2:23 that this is an “on that day” prophecy. This is clearly a futuristic prophecy.

This would have been amazing news for Zerubbabel to learn. He will not only be alive when this prophetically happens, but when it happens, he and his family will be elevated by God because God has chosen him.

Now Zerubbabel was quite an interesting political leader in the Davidic line. He led the project to get the Temple rebuilt (Ezra 3:8) and he would not let their enemies have anything to do with it (Ezra 4:1-3). Once Haggai and Zechariah had told them to get rebuilding, he immediately obeyed (Ezra 5:1-2).

What Haggai does here is to inform him that not only will he be living when the kingdom is on this earth, but he will hold a key position in it.

The fact that God will make him like a “signet ring” means he will hold a special position of royalty, rank and value when Jesus Christ establishes His Davidic Kingdom on this earth.

God has chosen him to be a key leader when He establishes His kingdom on earth. This is God’s elective grace.

God says I have declared this.

Every political leader would do well to consider this passage.

God will hold political leaders highly accountable for the way they led the people in regard to reverencing Him and His word and His worship.

Wise is the leader who promotes the importance of reverencing God and His word. There will be a day of accountability that political leaders will face.

Zerubbabel came from a family lineage of one of the worst political leaders in history and yet he feared God and the word of God and he will be forever honored.

I fully expect that we will see Zerubbabel in Jerusalem when Jesus Christ is there reigning. He will hold a very high position for his work.

Did Zerubbabel deserve this election? No. But the one thing he did do is he took God’s word seriously and he led the people to reverence God and His word.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

1. In life always keep God and worshipping God as the highest priority.
2. Never forget God is the Sovereign LORD of hosts who rules over things in heaven and on earth.
3. Even when worshipping God and working for God, make certain we stay focused on being clean.
4. In eternity God will honor individuals who revered Him and His word.
5. God does have a glorious future for Israel and us.