

# SHAKING THE HEAVENS AND EARTH

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Haggai 2:20-23 says, “And again the word of the Lord came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying, speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, *I will shake the heavens and the earth; and I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the Lord, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts.*” As the Lord had prophesied more than two months before (Hag 2:6), God again foretold in this passage that He would “shake the heavens and the earth.” God also prophesied that the shaking of these nations would be followed by the making of Zerubbabel as a signet. These prophecies pertain to Jesus Christ and the establishment of his church.

## **The shaking of earth and heaven**

Haggai 2:20-23 foretold that the destruction of the nations and the coming of Rome would be associated with the coming of Christ, the New Testament, and the church. Persia, Greece and all the nations of that time were shaken and destroyed by the time that God sent Jesus Christ to establish the New Testament. Daniel the prophet also prophesied of the succession of the earthly kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. He then foretold what would happen in the days of the kings of the fourth (the Roman) kingdom: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure” (Dan 2:44-45). This strongly parallels the prophecy in Haggai 2:20-23. In fact, Haggai 2:21-23 is quoted and explained in Hebrews 12:26-28, as the destruction of those earthly kingdoms preceded the establishment of God’s immovable and eternal kingdom, the church of Christ. Hebrews 12:26-28 says, “*Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*”

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(continued)

## Zerubbabel as God's signet

Another important part of the prophecy in Haggai 2:20-23 was that God would make Zerubbabel "as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts." A "signet" was a signature-ring, such as was used by a king to make His decrees official (e.g. 1 Kings 21:8). Zerubbabel was God's royal seal on this prophecy. Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, came through the lineage of Zerubbabel (Matt 1:12-16; Luke 3:23-27). Zerubbabel led the building of the physical temple (Ezra 1-6; Hag 1-2; Zech 4). Jesus Christ built the church, God's spiritual temple. In Matthew 16:18 Christ foretold that upon the bedrock of the Apostle Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God (Matt 16:13-17), "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ, and there is no other (1 Cor 3:11). In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, we learn that God's spiritual temple is built upon this foundation: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." The phrase "which temple *ye are*," as it is addressed to those who have been added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor 12:13), makes it clear that the church is this spiritual temple of God. Ephesians 2:19-22 says, "*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*" We see the church once again described in this manner in 1 Peter 2:4-8: "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed." Thus, Zerubbabel foreshadowed the coming and the work of Christ. And God shook heaven and earth to establish His eternal kingdom. May we all forever strive to be faithful citizens of the Lord's kingdom, and living stones in his holy temple!