

WARM-UP

- Among your siblings or friends, regardless of age, who seems to exhibit the most authority or is a natural leader? Why do you say so?
- What's your favorite underdog story? What about the story do you like so much?
- Do you have a hard time asking for help? Why or why not?

WORD ²⁰*The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month,* ²¹*“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth . . .”* **HAGGAI 2:20-21**

(Read also **HAGGAI 2:22-23**.)

God says through Haggai that He is about to *shake the heavens and the earth*. While *chariots and their riders* (Haggai 2:22) were a symbol of a kingdom's military might, God declared that He is in control. He has the power and ability to *destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations*. This week, let's look at two truths from the book of Haggai that remain true today.

1 | God is sovereign.

21"Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, 22and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother." **HAGGAI 2:21-22**

God is ultimately behind the rise and fall of kingdoms. Politics and power drive so much of the world and economy, but Haggai knew that God is the only sovereign king. The shaking of the nations is part of God's plan to make the kingdoms of the world His own. Even as we obey Him, we must acknowledge that nations rise and fall, but God is sovereign above all. What is the vision Revelation 11:15 gives us about Jesus and His kingdom? How does the sovereignty of God give you peace that lasts beyond this lifetime?

2 | God sets people in place to fulfill His purpose.

“On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the LORD, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the LORD of hosts.” HAGGAI 2:23

A signet ring is a tool that carries an imprint representing a person, clan, or organization. In the time of kings, the signet ring symbolized the authority of the king who owned it. Haggai’s prophecy was significant to the Israelites because God was restating His promise to put a descendant of David (Zerubbabel) on the throne. The truth that this conveys to us today is that God sets people in place to fulfill His purpose. God has the authority to raise and collapse nations and powers, and He commanded us to do His work (Matthew 28:18–20). What has been your response to God’s sovereignty and His charge to make disciples?

APPLICATION

- God has the power to sweep away the strength of the nations. Prayerfully consider if there are things or people that you put your security in apart from God, and submit these to Him.
- God is putting people in position to fulfill His purposes. How can this truth give you security about your purpose on earth? How can we apply the truth of God’s sovereignty and call to the way we see our nation and government?
- What are some things you believe God is asking you to do today for the work of His kingdom?

