

# God's Promises in a Shaken World

## Haggai 2:20-23 (NRSVue)



YOU STAND BEFORE THE WORLD AS A TINY CREATURE, a lone figure against a storm. Hurricanes of politics, war, disease, and uncertainty rattle the ground beneath you. Even your personal life trembles. Families divide, finances tighten, or health fades. In these moments, we believe we're of no importance.

Zerubbabel was a shuddering descendant of David and the Persian appointed governor of Judah. In the last words of Haggai, God spoke to remind him how he takes one life and shapes history through it.

When we believe we're insignificant, God equips us to do his greater purposes through his promises and presence.

### God's Voice in Chaos

The Lord's word came again to Haggai.

God spoke into the noise. He held back the confusion and despair, like a hand on the people's shoulders in the dark—steady and warm. They heard a message earlier that day, yet God wasn't finished speaking. His word returned when their hearts lurched.

Haggai lived in a world unraveling. Jerusalem lay in ruins, foreign powers held sway, and the leaders of Israel were weary. Yet into chaos came the Lord's fresh word.

So too in our lives, God's word isn't once and done. He keeps speaking through scripture, prayer, and his Spirit, reminding us we aren't lost in the world's noise.

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). God's voice isn't lost in the din. His speaking is persistent, personal, and recognizable to those who belong to him.

The promise of faith is that God still speaks. His voice cuts through static. His word steadies us when creation shakes.

## **God's Sovereign Shake-Up**

The Lord said, "I am about to shake the heavens and the earth" (Haggai 2:21).

The shaking wasn't the end. God was reorganizing the world. What people once trusted (empires, economies, armies) was overturning. Even chariots and horses, proud emblems of strength, were to fall.

The same shaking rattles our days.

Systems falter. Lives crumble. Nations groan.

But God isn't absent. He's active. He rattles what must fall so what cannot be ruined remains.

He unsettles to awaken. He shakes to shape.

Maybe he disturbs your comfort, your routines, your illusions of control so you'll remember who reigns. When the kingdoms of this world totter, God's kingdom stands. When our scaffolding falls away, Christ remains the solid rock beneath our feet.

## **God's Promise of Purpose**

"On that day...I will take you, O Zerubbabel...and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you," declares the Lord (Haggai 2:23).

A signet ring was no fashion accessory. It bore the king's seal, his trust, his power. God said to Zerubbabel, "You carry my authority, my presence, and my purpose." He acted as others did, but heaven saw him as chosen.

Zerubbabel bore the seal of God's trust in a crumbling world. Generations later, Christ will bear his trust in full—God's true signet, pressed into our flesh.

So here's the heart of this passage: *God turns your insignificance into influence.* When the world shakes, he appoints servants who stand firm. He did it through

Zerubbabel and Jesus, and he does it, today, for those who believe, for those who stay faithful in small things.

You may not be a prophet or a governor, but in Christ, you're God's signet ring, his imprint on a broken world. Your kindness, courage, and quiet faithfulness are seals of his authority written on a human heart.

WHEN EVERYTHING SHAKES, remember who holds you. God's promises aren't paper pledges. They rise from the heat of his eternal purpose and forge a better world.

When the winds howl and the ground trembles, believe God still speaks in the storm. He still calms what shakes. He still calls you by name.

This week, ask Christ where he shakes your scaffold and steadies your stance. Ask where he presses your feet into firmer ground.

When we believe we're insignificant, God equips us to do his greater purposes through his promises and presence.

What more could you want than this?

**Amen**

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