



The Lord's Signet Ring

There is a second prophecy on the 24th day of the month through Haggai. This oracle will be the last in Haggai, and it gives us a glimpse of what the Lord will do in the future. While it is the shortest oracle, yet it presents a grand scale similar to that given in 2:7. Having rebuked the Israelites for their sins, encouraged them to continue their rebuild of the temple, and promising to bless them from that day on (2:19), God gives one final prophecy to spur them on.

Launch

- 1) What does a crown usually symbolise? Are there anything else that symbolises the same thing?

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Read Haggai 2:20-23.

- 2) When was this oracle given? (v20)
- 3) To whom is this oracle directed to? (v21) What is the difference in its recipients compared to the other oracles? (1:1, 2:2, 2:11)
- 4) What is the Lord going to do? (v21-22)
 - a. What do you think those things mean? (v21-22)
 - b. What do you think that means for the nation and the king of Israel when that happens?

- 5) What else will happen on that day? (v23)
- a. What does the signet ring symbolise? (v23)

 - b. In what way do you think Zerubbabel will be like the Lord's signet ring? (cf. Matt. 1:12-17)
- 6) When do you think this prophesied event of v21-22 will happen? (cf. Heb. 12:25-28)
- a. According to Hebrews 12:28, what assurance do we have as followers of Christ?
- 7) How does the prophecy in Haggai 2:20-23 gives us assurance in our world today?

Conclusion

The Lord will establish a new world order under the kingship of his king. All other nations will be overturned and shattered, to be brought under the kingship of God's chosen king. On that day, Zerubbabel will be made to be like God's signet ring – the symbol of God's authority and kingship. It is not Zerubbabel himself, as "that day" is far into the future. However, as we read Matthew 1:12-17, we realize that the Messiah himself comes through the lineage of Zerubbabel, and this prophecy is pointing forwards to Christ himself. It is thus not surprising to read that at the death of Jesus on the cross, the earth shook (Matt 27:51, 54). At his resurrection, he declared that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him. A new world order has begun through Jesus, and will be consummated at his second coming (Hebrews 12:25-27).

"The splendour of the new temple and the glory of the temple of David will, amid the turmoil in nature and among the nations, be fulfilled in Christ, centrally at his first and finally at his second advent. In this prophecy Haggai and his contemporaries were again encouraged that God would complete the good work that he began. The rebuilding of the temple and the reestablishment of the Davidic dynasty must be interpreted and evaluated in the context of this work of God. In sum, the theme of this passage is God's signet ring applied to (1) Zerubbabel, (2) Christ, and (3) the Church."¹

¹ P. Verhoef, *Haggai and Malachi* (Grand Rapids, Mich: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1959), 149–50.