

# Haggai 2:20-23

Haggai 2:20 – “The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month,

702 [e]      6242 [e]      2292 [e]      413 [e]      8145 [e]      3068 [e]      1697 [e]      1961 [e]  
 wə·'ar·bā·'āh      bə·'eś·rīm      ḥag·gay,      'el-      šê·nīt      Yah·weh      də·ḅar-      way·hī  
 וְאַרְבַּעַה      בְּעֶשְׂרִים      חַגִּי      אֶל-      שְׁנֵיתַי      יְהוָה      דְּבַר-      וַיָּבֵא      20  
 and the four [day]      on twenty      Haggai      to      a second [time]      of Yahweh      the word      And came  
 Conj-w | Number-ms      Prep-b | Number-cp      N-proper-ms      Prep      Number-ofs      N-proper-ms      N-msc      Conj-w | V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms

559 [e]      2320 [e]  
 lê·mōr.      la·ḥō·deš  
 לְאָמַר      לַחֹדֶשׁ  
 saying      of the month  
 Prep-l | V-Qal-Inf      Prep-l, Art | N-ms

| Verse   | Darius' Year | Month   | Day | Modern Date          |
|---|--------------|---------|-----|----------------------|
| <b>1:1</b><br>– Haggai's received message (1 <sup>st</sup> )                        | 2nd          | sixth   | 1   | August 29, 520 BC    |
| <b>1:15a</b><br>- began work on temple  | 2nd          | sixth   | 24  | September 21, 520 BC |
| <b>1:15b-2:1</b><br>– Haggai's message to Zerubbabel (2 <sup>nd</sup> )             | 2nd          | seventh | 21  | October 17, 520 BC   |
| <b>2:10</b><br>– Haggai's message to the priests (3 <sup>rd</sup> )                 | 2nd          | ninth   | 24  | December 18, 520 BC  |
| <b>2:20</b><br>– Haggai's message to Zerubbabel, shake the earth (4 <sup>th</sup> ) | 2nd          | ninth   | 24  | December 18, 520 BC  |

1. The fourth message that came to Haggai recorded in this book
2. Same date as the previous 3<sup>rd</sup> message
3. This message is spoken to Zerubbabel himself, the governor of Judah.
4. The previous messages were:
  - a. Build the Temple
  - b. Do not be discouraged
  - c. Blessing begin today
  - d. Now, the 4<sup>th</sup> message concerns Zerubbabel, his office:
    - i. what God is going to do in the earth and the heavens
    - ii. what God is going to do through Zerubbabel

2:21 – “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth,

|               |         |                   |         |                    |             |          |               |         |              |
|---------------|---------|-------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|--------------|
| 8064 [e]      | 853 [e] | 7493 [e]          | 589 [e] | 559 [e]            | 3063 [e]    | 6346 [e] | 2216 [e]      | 413 [e] | 559 [e]      |
| haš·šā·ma·yim | 'eṭ-    | mar·'iš,          | 'ā·nī   | lê·mōr;            | yə·hū·dāh   | pa·ḥaṭ-  | zə·rub·bā·ḇel | 'el-    | 'ē·mōr       |
| הַשָּׁמַיִם   | אֶת-    | מִרְעִישׁ         | אֲנִי   | לֵאמֹר             | יְהוּדָה    | פְּחָת־  | זְרֻבָּבֶל    | אֶל-    | אֲמַר 21     |
| heaven        | -       | will shake        | I       | saying             | of Judah    | governor | Zerubbabel    | to      | speak        |
| Art   N-mp    | DirObjM | V-Hifil-Prtcpl-ms | Pro-1cs | Prep-l   V-Qal-Inf | N-proper-ms | N-msc    | N-proper-fs   | Prep    | V-Qal-Imp-ms |

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| 776 [e]    | 853 [e]          |
| hā·'ā·reṣ. | wə·'eṭ-          |
| —          | וְאֶת־           |
| הָאָרֶץ:   | וְאֶת־           |
| earth      | and              |
| Art   N-fs | Conj-w   DirObjM |

1. “Shake heavens and the earth”

- a. Already mentioned in Haggai 2:6-7
- b. Cosmic (heavenly) shaking results in events and upheaval on the earth
- c. Here there is “shake” or *ra’as* meaning “to quake, shake”, but in the next verse the result is “overthrow” *hapak* which means “turn, turn about, overturn”

**2:22 – “and 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.**

|                |              |              |                               |                 |            |                             |                  |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1471 [e]       | 4467 [e]     | 2392 [e]     | 8045 [e]                      | 4467 [e]        | 3678 [e]   | 2015 [e]                    |                  |
| hag·gō·w·yim;  | mam·lə·kō·wṭ | ḥō·zeq       | wə·hiš·maḏ·tī,                | mam·lā·kō·wṭ,   | kis·sē     | wə·hā·paḅ·tī                |                  |
| —              | הַגּוֹיִם    | מַמְלְכוֹת   | חֲזֵק                         | וְהִשְׁמַדְתִּי | מַמְלְכוֹת | כִּסֵּא                     | וְהִפַּכְתִּי 22 |
| of the nations | of kingdoms  | the strength | and I will destroy            | of kingdoms     | the throne | and I will overthrow        |                  |
| Art   N-mp     | N-fpc        | N-msc        | Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs | N-fp            | N-msc      | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs |                  |

|                                 |            |                             |                                 |              |                             |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 7392 [e]                        | 5483 [e]   | 3381 [e]                    | 7392 [e]                        | 4818 [e]     | 2015 [e]                    |
| wə·rō·kə·ḇê·hem,                | sū·sîm     | wə·yā·rə·ḏū                 | wə·rō·kə·ḇe·hā,                 | mer·kā·ḇāh   | wə·hā·paḅ·tī                |
| וְרִכְבֵיהֶם                    | סוּסִים    | וַיִּרְדּוּ                 | וְרִכְבֵיהֶם                    | מִרִכְבָּהּ  | וְהִפַּכְתִּי               |
| and their riders                | the horses | and shall come down         | and those who ride in them      | the chariots | and I will overthrow        |
| Conj-w   V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc   3mp | N-mp       | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp | Conj-w   V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc   3fs | N-fs         | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs |

|                |                |           |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| 251 [e]        | 2719 [e]       | 376 [e]   |
| 'ā·ḥîw.        | ḇə·ḥe·reb      | 'iš       |
| אָחִיו:        | בְּחֶרֶב       | אִישׁ     |
| of his brother | by the sword   | every one |
| N-msc   3ms    | Prep-b   N-fsc | N-ms      |

1. “overthrow” *hapak* which means “turn, turn about, overturn” is used when overthrow cities in Gen. 19 and Deut. 29 or to say “destroy” when YHWH punishes Israel.
2. It appears YHWH is telling Zerubbabel that he is going to punish and overthrow wicked the thrones (leadership) in nations

3. Is the Lord talking about the present time in 520 BC of overthrowing Persia (Egypt and Greece)? Is the Lord speaking of an eschatological event when the nations are overthrown and God establishes his throne on earth?
4. After “overthrow the throne of kingdoms” comes the phrase “destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations” including the militaries and the source of the security of these nations.
  - a. Apparently in civil war (by the sword of his brother)?
  - b. This leaves these nations defenseless
  - c. The shaking of the heavens causes events on earth that create internal and civil chaos within the culture of these nations.
  - d. The Lord is preemptively taking credit for the chaos about to be unleashed on the earth.
5. The timing of these events is identified as “I am about to”
6. One point of encouragement would seem to be this message does not include Judah. Judah has just been told in the previous message that they are going to be blessed.

2:23 – “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.”

|             |                 |          |               |                        |             |             |          |               |                    |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------------|--------------------|
| 5650 [e]    | 7597 [e]        | 1121 [e] | 2216 [e]      | 3947 [e]               | 6635 [e]    | 3068 [e]    | 5002 [e] | 1931 [e]      | 3117 [e]           |
| 'ab-dî      | šə-'al-tî-'él   | ben-     | ze-rub-bā-bel | 'eq-qā-hā-kā           | šə-bā-'ō-wt | Yah-weh     | ne-'um-  | ha-hū         | bay-yō-wm          |
| עבְדִי      | שְׂאֵלְתִיֶּאֱל | בֶן־     | זְרֻבְבָל     | אֶקַחְךָ               | צְבָאוֹת    | יְהוָה      | נֹאמ־    | הַהוּא        | בַּיּוֹם           |
| My servant  | of Shealtiel    | son      | Zerubbabel    | I will take you        | of hosts    | Yahweh      | says     | that          | In day             |
| N-msc   1cs | N-proper-ms     | N-msc    | N-proper-fs   | V-Qal-Imperf-1cs   2ms | N-cp        | N-proper-ms | N-msc    | Art   Pro-3ms | Prep-b, Art   N-ms |

  

|              |             |          |                |            |          |                      |                                   |             |         |
|--------------|-------------|----------|----------------|------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 6635 [e]     | 3068 [e]    | 5002 [e] | 977 [e]        | 3588 [e]   | 2368 [e] | 7760 [e]             | 3068 [e]                          | 5002 [e]    |         |
| šə-bā-'ō-wt. | Yah-weh     | ne-'um   | bā-har-tî,     | bə-kā      | kî-      | ka-hō-w-tām;         | wə-šam-tî-kā                      | Yah-weh,    | ne-'um- |
| צְבָאוֹת:    | יְהוָה      | נֹאמ־    | בְּחַרְתִּי    | כָּךְ      | כִּי־    | כְּחֹתֶם             | וְשָׁמְתִיד                       | יְהוָה      | נֹאמ־   |
| of hosts     | Yahweh      | says     | I have chosen  | you        | for      | like a signet [ring] | and will make you                 | Yahweh      | says    |
| N-cp         | N-proper-ms | N-msc    | V-Qal-Perf-1cs | Prep   2ms | Conj     | Prep-k, Art   N-ms   | Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs   2ms | N-proper-ms | N-msc   |

1. “On that day” - *bayyom hahu* – is a phrase most common in prophecy concerning a time in the future as in Deut. 31:17.
  - a. Sometimes the future time is historical: Isaiah 4:2; 7:21; 10:20; Jer. 4:9; 30:8; Joel 3:18
  - b. Sometimes the future time is eschatological: Isaiah 2:2; Mic. 4:1-4,6; 5:10; Amos 8:9
2. This could be a different time than the previous verses “I am about to...” timing. Or, it could overlap the previous verse as a follow up to the events of “I am about to...”
3. “I will take you, O Zerubbabel”
  - a. This refers to the Lord “taking” Zerubbabel for a specific purpose
  - b. “my servant” confirms that Zerubbabel is being chosen for a specific purpose of God. Many were called by God and referred to as servants: Abraham, Moses, David, Nebuchadnezzar.
4. Is Zerubbabel “taken” and a “servant because:
  - a. He is the line of David? And, has eschatological references?
  - b. He is the current leader of Judah in 520 AD? And, he is going to be used to establish Judah during the time of the upheaval of the nations in the very near future following 520 AD.
5. Zerubbabel is the Lord’s signet ring.

- a. A signet ring had royal authority. It could be worn and used by the king or assigned to an individual to use it for the king's purposes.
  - i. Genesis 41
  - ii. Esther 3:10; 8:9-10
  - iii. In this case Zerubbabel has YHWH's authority to do and fulfill YHWH's plans of restoring Judah
- b. A signet ring could be a symbol of a close relationship between the ring and the owner. The owner's own name could be left by the ring and their authority secured
  - i. In this case the Lord is wearing Zerubbabel as a ring and where ever Zerubbabel is the Lord and his name are there.
  - ii. Although the Persian's had appointed Zerubbabel, it was the Lord who had shaken the heavens to cause this to occur. YHWH was with Judah
  - iii. This could be referring to the Davidic line being restored

1. Jeremiah 22:24-30 -

“As I live, declares the Lord, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you off and give you into the hand of those who seek your life, into the hand of those of whom you are afraid, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans. I will hurl you and the mother who bore you into another country, where you were not born, and there you shall die. But to the land to which they will long to return, there they shall not return.”

Is this man Coniah a despised, broken pot,  
a vessel no one cares for?

Why are he and his children hurled and cast  
into a land that they do not know?

O land, land, land,  
hear the word of the Lord!

Thus says the Lord:

“Write this man down as childless,  
a man who shall not succeed in his days,  
for none of his offspring shall succeed  
in sitting on the throne of David  
and ruling again in Judah.”