

When Everything is Shaken | Haggai 2:6-9
January 3, 2021

Scripture Reading

Haggai 2 ⁶For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. ⁸The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. ⁹The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.’ ”

Pre-Sermon Remarks

- Back in Acts next week, two whole chapters (12-13), so read ahead!

Introduction

- November 2018 – 7.1 earthquake in Anchorage, AK
 - If you’ve ever been in a real earthquake, it feels like the ground is water
- 2020 has been a year of shaking
 - Covid 19 pandemic
 - American political turmoil, racial upheaval, massive wildfires, Kobe Bryant
 - UFO footage released
 - Church merger, building project, moving, leadership
 - Hundreds of personal shakings: finances, relationships, physical health
- I love the line in the song we just sang, “called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken”

Unshakable Kingdom

Hebrews 12 ²⁵See to it that you do not reject the one who speaks. For if they did not escape when they rejected him who warned them on earth, even less will we if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven. ²⁶His voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷This expression, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what is not shaken might remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire.

- This is in the middle of a section about not falling away from God’s grace, ignoring his voice
- Past and future:
 - His voice shook the earth - Israel at Mt. Sinai
 - Yet once more, I will... - where does this come from?

Where does this come from? I’m glad you asked, the OT prophet Haggai.

Historical Background

- 586 BC | Destruction of Jerusalem, exile
- 538 BC | Persian King Cyrus allows return
 - Period of rebuilding, some success but many disappointments
- 522 BC | Darius I becomes king of Persia
- 520 BC | The word of the Lord comes to Haggai

About Haggai (book)

- 2nd shortest book in the Hebrew Scriptures
- Collection of four short sermons
- Central theme: rebuild the temple!

Four Sermons

Sermon #1 | 1:2-11

³The word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴“Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?”... ⁹...my house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house.

- Big idea of this sermon is that people’s priorities are out of line

Sermon #2 | 2:1-9

³‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Doesn’t it seem to you like nothing by comparison? ...⁶ ...Once more, in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. ⁷ I will shake all the nations so that the treasures of all the nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,” says the LORD of Armies... ⁹“The final glory of this house will be greater than the first,” says the LORD of Armies. “I will provide peace in this place”—this is the declaration of the LORD of Armies.

- Big idea is a promise: future glory will be better than what our eyes can currently see
- First reference to shaking: nations, heaven, earth, sea, dry land | EVERYTHING

Sermon #3 | 2:10-19

¹⁴Then Haggai replied, “So is this people, and so is this nation before me—this is the LORD’s declaration. And so is every work of their hands; even what they offer there is defiled...¹⁹ Is there still seed left in the granary? The vine, the fig, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yet produced. But from this day on I will bless you.”

- Big idea: we are defiled, but God wants to move toward his people with blessing

Sermon #4 | 2:20-23

²¹ “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah: I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. ²² I will overturn royal thrones and destroy the power of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overturn chariots and their riders. Horses and their riders will fall, each by his brother’s sword. ²³ On that day”—this is the declaration of the LORD of Armies—“I will take you, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, my servant”—this is the LORD’s declaration—“and make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you.” This is the declaration of the LORD of Armies.

- Big idea: everything will be shaken, but God’s people are beloved, and I’ll prove it by raising up a new leader from the line of David

When Things Are Shaken

1) Being shaken is unpleasant

- In Haggai, “the nations” will be shaken. To Judah, that seems like a good thing!
- But also, the dry land and the waters will be shaken. Could be unpleasant or difficult.
- When you remember Israel (Hebrews), they did not like it

2) We should not be surprised by life’s shakings

- “Yet once more...” | indicates that this has happened before
 - Do not be surprised (1 Peter)
- There is a particular pearl-clutching, breathless shock in our culture over suffering
 - I don’t say that to diminish people’s suffering or hardship or injustices
 - But, the shock highlights a disconnect from historical reality

3) God allows shaking to reset our priorities

- “...your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?” ...⁹...my house still lies in ruins, while each of you is busy with his own house.”
- Temple = relationship
- Date nite restaurants in a tent

4) God allows shaking to ultimately lead us to Jesus

- **Haggai 2**²¹ “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah: I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.²² I will overturn royal thrones and destroy the power of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overturn chariots and their riders. Horses and their riders will fall, each by his brother’s sword.²³ On that day”—this is the declaration of the Lord of Armies—“I will take you, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, my servant”—this is the Lord’s declaration—“and make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you.” This is the declaration of the Lord of Armies.

The Gospel of Zerubbabel

- Persian-appointed governor | Haggai 1:1
- Led exiles back to Judah | Ezra 2:2
- Led the rebuilding of the temple | Ezra 5:2
- Descendent from the line of David | 1 Chronicles 3
 - ¹⁰The son of Solomon was Rehoboam, Abijah his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,¹¹ Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son,¹² Amaziah his son...¹⁷ and the sons of Jeconiah, the captive: Shealtiel his son...Zerubbabel.
- In the lineage of Jesus | Matthew 1:12

Matthew 1¹² After the exile to Babylon Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel, Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,¹³ Zerubbabel fathered Abiud, Abiud fathered Eliakim, Eliakim fathered Azor,¹⁴ Azor

fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,¹⁵ Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, Matthan fathered Jacob,¹⁶ and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Messiah.

- *Very nice Christmas card from Duane and Susan Hoffman*

God's promise to Zerubbabel is a reiteration of his promise to David, that somebody from David's line would always rule over God's people. In Jesus, that promise finds its ultimate fulfillment.

Jesus Knows About Shaking

- Jesus was born into a world of political turmoil | Roman and Judean conflict
 - Mass crucifixion of 2,000 in 4 BC
 - Flight to Egypt
- Jesus experienced the breaking/shaking of relationships with closest family
- Jesus experienced financial hardship and uncertainty
- Jesus faced storms and natural disasters
- Jesus faced the ultimate shaking during his trial and crucifixion
- And still, Jesus rose from death on the 3rd day
- Jesus is the new (latter) temple, whose glory surpasses the first!
- He offers us a Kingdom that cannot be shaken!

When My Life Is Shaken

*What if more hardship is ahead?

1. Don't ignore God's voice | Hebrews 12:25
 - a. **C.S. Lewis** Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.
2. Evaluate your priorities | Haggai 1:9
 - a. When to start serving? When to watch less sports? When to tithe? Etc. etc.
3. Remember Jesus' work | Hebrews 12:3-4
 - a. ³ For consider him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, so that you won't grow weary and give up. ⁴ In struggling against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
4. Build your life on the rock | Matthew 7:24-27
 - a. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house.
5. **Remember to party | Haggai 1:1

Ray Clendenen & Richard Taylor The name of the prophet Haggai is derived from the common Hebrew word *ḥag*, which means "procession" or "festival" or "feast." ...In that case the prophet's name in Hebrew means "festal" or "pertaining to the feast." We can only guess about why his parents gave him such a name...[Perhaps] the prophet's name expressed an anticipation that the major feasts of the nation would once again be restored. But it is more probable that Haggai was so named because he was born during one of the great feasts of ancient Israel, such as Sukkot in

the fall or Passover or Pentecost in the spring. If so, the time of his birth, and therefore the significance of his name as well, was associated with significant religious events such as those a major feast would call readily to mind. In that sense the parents may have wished for the name of their child permanently to recall the fact that Haggai was indeed their “festal” child.

- The prophet who prophesied major shakings of the world is the same one whose name reminds us to celebrate and feast and party in the Lord
- *New Years party connection*

Benediction | based on Matthew 7:24-25

Lord, may we hear these words of yours and act on them, building our houses on the rock as wise men and women. When the rains fall, and the rivers rise, and the winds blow, our lives will not collapse, because our foundation is Jesus, our rock.

Sermon Description