

Time To Build Again – Shaking Kingdoms

Application Guide

Read Haggai 2:20-23

1. This is the second occasion Haggai has used the image of shaking nations in this chapter. Verses 6-8 talk of him shaking the nations & then here in this final message God brings up this idea of shaking again. The phrase heaven & earth highlights the fact that everything will be shaken. The writer of Hebrews directly quotes this imagery from Haggai (see Hag 2:6 & Heb 12:26-27) & applies it to the 'end times'. This helps highlight that there was an immediate & future application to Haggai's words.
 - *Bearing in mind the fact that God has already promised to be with & bless his people: How would this powerful imagery of God shaking kingdoms have encouraged Zerubbabel?*
 - *How does Hebrews 12:25-29 apply Haggai's words & how should we respond as believers? Discuss.*

2. Turn to First Corinthians 3:10-16 and read carefully through the verses.
 - *What does Paul teach us about building for God?*
 - *What is the foundation we are to build upon?*
 - *What kind of imagery does he use to warn us about how we build?*
 - *How does all this encourage us to invest our lives in building God's unshakable kingdom?*

3. In verse 23 God's says he will use Zerubbabel like a signet ring. A signet ring was a stone carved with the symbol of the person in power - in this case God. It was used by pressing into clay tablets to authenticate what was written on them. It was much like a signature today. God was essentially saying he had chosen Zerubbabel in order to stamp his mark in the world. Zerubbabel was a forerunner to the Christ who is the One whom God ultimately and uniquely used to leave his mark in the world.
 - *How did Jesus ultimately and uniquely leave God's mark on the world?*
 - *How do you think God wants to use our lives to stamp his mark in the world?*