

Your Kingdom Come

© 2010 Tony Garland

I. The Context

- A. Babylonian Captivity – throne of David cast down.
- B. Remnant of Jews have returned to Jerusalem – God is encouraging them through the prophet Haggai .
- C. Last recorded revelation through Haggai – God reveals the eventual overthrow of the Gentile nations and His choice of a ruler in the line of Zerubbabel.
- D. Today, we'll be exploring part of the "The Lord's Prayer" found here in Haggai.

II. Haggai 2:20-23

- A. And again the word of the LORD came to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying, "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth. I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother. In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,' says the LORD, 'and will make you like a signet [*ring*]; for I have chosen you,' says the LORD of hosts."
 - (1) Psalms 2:1-2)
Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, [*saying*], "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."
 - (2) Notice they are kings (plural), yet they speak with one voice "against the LORD and against His Anointed."
- 3. This unified representation of ungodly rule stretching throughout history is also seen in several other passages.
 - a) Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream
 - (1) When the stone, representing the kingdom of Messiah, struck the image representing major Gentile kingdoms (Daniel 2:35):
Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold *were crushed together*, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

- b) Revelation 13:2
Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like [*the feet of*] a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.
- (1) As human kingdoms fall, making way for the next, their aspects are carried forward to influence that which arises next. Thus, there remains a continued thread of beast-like rejection of God which is common to all, manifesting sometimes in one way, other times in another, but always manifesting.
- c) Luke 4:5-7
Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; *for [this] has been delivered to me*, and I give it to whomever I wish. "Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."
- (1) Jesus never contested Satan's claim to possess "all the kingdoms of the world."
(2) It is this *single* God-rejecting rule of varied places and times which God here pledges to overthrow in favor of the King He has chosen.
4. Notice these are "Gentile kingdoms".
- a) The ascendancy and prevalence of these kingdoms constitutes the "times of the Gentiles" which Jesus spoke of. They are one and the same as the varied metals in the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 and the various beasts in Daniel's vision of Daniel 7.
- E. "I will overthrow the chariots and those who ride in them; the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother." (Hag. 2:22)
1. The Bible is replete with cautions to the people of God not to trust in the arm of the flesh – here represented by resources of superior advantage in warfare: horses and chariots.
- a) Psalms 20:7
Some [*trust*] in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
2. Yet Israel – like the Gentile nations – continued to turn to Egypt for help instead of the living God.
- a) Isaiah 31:1
Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, [*And*] rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because [*they are*] many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!
3. The Gentile nations, in their rejection of God and having no knowledge of the "chariots of Israel" (2K. 2:12; 6:17; 13:14), can only fall back upon their weapons of warfare.

- a) Yet these will be of no avail in the day when God shakes the nations because of the confusion which God throws into the mix: they will be overthrown, "every one by the sword of his brother."
 - b) Those thought to be trusted allies will turn on each other, consuming one another by subterfuge, deception, and God-induced confusion (e.g., Rev. 17:16-17),
 - c) This is the bitter "cup of stumbling" or "cup of drunkenness" wherein God has pledged that the nations will drink of His wrath (Zec. 12:2-3; Rev. 14:10; 18:6).
4. No technology will deliver from the God-induced stupor which will plague the Gentile kingdoms of the end as they are led to their own destruction (Rev. 16:13-14).
- F. "I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel, says the LORD, and will make you like a signet ring"
1. The signet ring was the device which kings and those in authority used to certify or "sign" documents.
 2. The imprint represented their full authority in their personal absence.
 - a) It was by king Ahab's signet ring that Jezebel's sealed documents which authorized false testimony against Naboth leading to his death and the transfer of his vineyard into the hands of Ahab.
 - b) It was king Darius' seal which certified that Daniel must spend the night confined in the lion's den.
 3. Here, God promises that Zerubbabel will exercise the *full authority* of God Himself. As we saw earlier, this seems to speak of the chosen offspring of Zerubbabel: Jesus Christ.¹
 - (2) twelve-volume analysis of the rise and fall of civilizations, titled "A Study of History" observed

¹ Although we should remember that Zerubbabel himself will be resurrected and serve in the government of Messiah Jesus, possibly occupying a position of great authority.