

# Life Group Notes 9 February 2025 - Haggai 2:20-23 - The Signet Ring

Preached by Beks <https://www.npbcc.org.nz/sermons/signet-ring/>

## **Intro:**

Today is the last message on the book of Haggai, the fourth in the series that we have been working through on Sunday at church

As a recap – watch the Bible projects summary of the book of Haggai to provide an introduction to the discussion for your group. 5min video here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juPvw\\_xcX-U&t=334s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juPvw_xcX-U&t=334s)

## **The God who Shakes the heavens and earth**

Read verses – **Haggai 2:20-23**

20 The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month: “Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: I am about to shake the heavens and the earth 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 fall, every one by the sword of a comrade. On that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, son of Shealtiel, says the Lord, and make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you, says the Lord of hosts.”

**Q: What is Zerubbabel’s role in the people of Israel?**

**Q: What does God say he will be doing for him?**

These images of God shaking things up are common in the prophetic books. They indicate the supreme rule of God over his creation. When we hear about God shaking things up, it can mean literally or figuratively. Some examples include Gods Judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah, God saving the people out of slavery in Egypt. God had proven himself mighty on their behalf many times. They had witnessed his power as they were led into the promised land, with the fall of Jerico and many other victories.

God is promising to do again what he has done before. He will protect his people with the might of his hand.

**Quick fact:** There is another story in the Bible where God caused confusion and “set every man’s sword against his comrade”. This can be found in Judges 7:22 when Gideon and his 300 men took on 132 000 enemies!

## **Remember the mighty works of God**

Q: The bible is full of reminders to remember what God has done – why do you think this is? **Can you think of any traditions or festivals that remind us of what God has done?** Discuss some that come to mind (Communion, the pass over feast, Easter, Christmas)

**Q: Can you think about something that God has done for you? An answer to a prayer, a door that was opened, physical healing, financial blessing, your salvation testimony? Each person can share one of these stories with the group.**

**Q: What do you think Haggai means when he tells the governor of Judah that he will be made like a signet ring?**

Signet rings were used by rulers to seal documents to ensure authenticity. They were used way back when in Persia and Egypt. They were a status symbol as well as a practical form of identification. In Genesis 41:42 we read that Pharaoh gave his signet ring to Joseph, meaning that he could act with the authority of the Pharaoh.

Signet rings were a symbol of the ruler and were used as a means of authority. They were also very expensive, made from gold and precious stones and were treasured possessions. It could be that God is promising to protect and treasure Zerubbabel and considering the plans to shake up the earth, he will need it.

We also read that God has “Chosen him” Zerubbabel.

But what does God say about believers in the New Testament believers that applies to us today?

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

**Q: Why did God choose you? – For what purpose?**

**Q: What do you think it means that we are to declare his praises? How do we do this practically?**

**Q: How did he choose you? The word says he called you out of darkness and into his glorious light. Can you share with the group how you were saved and what your journey from darkness to light looks like?**

**Q: Who do we belong to now? What does the verse in Peter say about this?**

**We are God’s chosen people, His possession. Remember what the Lord has done in choosing you.**

### **Conclusion:**

God is mighty and powerful and shakes the earth as he raises and destroys Kingdoms – and He is the same God that protects you and treasures his people as His special signet ring.

You are a royal and chosen people, called out of darkness for His glory, to declare His excellencies. Live a life worthy of this calling, you have been chosen by Him, for Him, and you belong to Him.