

**A Call to Confidence in the Future:
Make Me a Signet Ring for the Lord**
Haggai 2:20-23

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Introduction: This morning I challenged you with the message: From defilement to devotion. It was a call to obedience. It was a call to confess just going through the motions of worship without heart-felt devotion. True worship involves revelation from God & a response to God. Did you truly worship this morning, or did you simply go through the motions?

Tonight we close our study of Haggai by considering verses 20-23. Ryrie outlines this as “A call to confidence in the future.” I suggest it could be entitled, “Make me a signet ring for the Lord.” Note with me that though this is a personal appeal of Haggai to Zerubbabel, it has direct application to you & me in this day in which we live. I see here the manifestation of God’s power (:20-22) & the magnification of God’s Prince (:23).

I. The **manifestation** of God’s **power** (:20-22)

A. The setting of the message (:20)

1. The date is given: “*in the four & twentieth day of the month*” (cf. 2:10).
2. The date equates to December 18, 520 B.C.

B. The subject of the message (:21)

1. Zerubbabel (“born in Babylon”) is the grandson of Jehoiachin.
2. He is of the house of David, from tribe of Judah.

C. The “shaking” in the message (:21-22)

1. “*I will shake the heavens & the earth*” (:21).
2. “*I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms...*” (:22).

Summary: This speaks of God’s future judgment of the nations. It did not take place in Zerubbabel’s day, but will find its fulfillment at the Battle of Armageddon.

II. The **magnification** of God’s **Prince** (:23)

A. The prince Zerubbabel:

1. He is called here “*My servant*” – compare & contrast his title “*governor*” (1:1; 2:21).
2. He is chosen here as “*a signet.*”

a. The signet ring speaks of **security** >

(1) “A signet was a stone set into a ring & engraved with the owner’s personal symbol” (Blanchard).

(2) It was used to seal official documents by pressing it down into soft wax or clay, to guarantee authenticity & safeguarded it until its destination. (see Esther 8:8).

Application: “The picture is one of certainty & security & is used by God to assure Zerubbabel that whatever storms broke over the land neither he nor the nation would ever be forsaken” (Blanchard). And see Isaiah 40:14-16.

b. The signet ring speaks of **beauty** >

(1) It speaks of God’s assessment of the believer: Isaiah 43:4, “*Since thou wast precious in My sight, thou hast been honorable, & I have loved thee...*”

(2) It speaks of how precious believers are in the sight of God: I Peter 1:19, (Redeemed) “*with the precious blood of Christ...*”

- c. The signet ring speaks of **authority** >
- (1) The seal of the king's signet ring guaranteed the authority & power of the king.
 - (2) The designation "*as a signet*" gave Zerubbabel the status & authority to direct the people in rebuilding the Temple & restoring Israel's worship system.

B. The Prince Jesus Christ:

1. Zerubbabel is a type (or representative) of Jesus Christ.
2. "God's true '*signet*' is Christ. He is the One who is the executor of the divine will on earth. He is the One who is coming back to reign" (Phillips).
3. Christ is described as God's servant > Isaiah 40-55.
4. Christ is described as God's chosen One > Isaiah 42:1 (& cf. I Peter 1:20).

Conclusion: Are you a "*signet*" ring of the Lord? If you have been saved, you are secure in Christ. Consider John 10:27-30. Not only are you secure in Christ, you are precious to Him. See John 3:16. And not only are you secure in Christ & precious to Him, you have the authority behind you as you serve Him. Christ said in Matthew 28:18-20, "*All power (authority) is given unto Me in heaven & in earth. Go ye therefore, & teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, & lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*" It is our responsibility to go forth in Christ's name & in His stead to proclaim, "*Be ye reconciled to God*" (II Corinthians 5:20). Vance Havner once said, "The gospel is not a secret to be hoarded, but a story to be heralded." Paul declares us to be "*ambassadors for Christ.*" It was John Newton who wrote, "Christ went away into heaven with our nature to represent us there, & has left us on earth with His nature to represent Him here."

As a signet ring, we have the dignity of being part of the family of God as well as the dignity of serving God. Such service requires dying to self. It has been said, "What is needed is not only the message of crucifixion but the crucifixion of the messenger" (Green). Christ said, "*If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, & take up his cross daily, & follow Me*" (Luke 9:23). Such devotion means dying to the acceptance & applause of the crowd & living for the approval of Christ & His cross.

As we manifest the power of God in our lives, we magnify the Prince of God, Jesus Christ, by our lives. How about you tonight? Are you one of His signet rings?