

# Haggai 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;

## Analysis

**Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth** (אָמַר אֶל־זְרֻבָּבֶל פַּחַת־יְהוּדָה לֵאמֹר אֲנִי מַרְעִישׁ אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ/emor el-Zerubbabel pachat-Yehudah lemor ani mar'ish et-hashamayim ve'et-ha'aretz)—God addresses Zerubbabel personally, the Davidic heir serving as Persian-appointed governor. The promise echoes 2:6: **I will shake the heavens and the earth** (אֲנִי מַרְעִישׁ/ani mar'ish)—God will intervene dramatically in history, overturning established order. The verb רָעַשׁ (ra'ash) means to quake, tremble, shake violently—earthquake-level upheaval.

This shaking has both near and far fulfillment. Near: the Persian Empire would eventually fall (to Alexander in 331 BC), as would every subsequent empire. Far: Christ's first advent shook heaven and earth (incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension), and His second coming will complete the shaking (Hebrews 12:26-27, Revelation 6:12-14, 21:1). The prophecy encourages Zerubbabel: though he governs under Persian authority with no political independence, God will overthrow all earthly kingdoms and establish His eternal kingdom through the Davidic line.

## Historical Context

Zerubbabel's position was precarious: Davidic heir living under foreign rule, leading a small community with no military or political power. He might have felt insignificant, wondering if God's promises to David (2 Samuel 7:12-16) could still

be trusted. God's message assures him: earthly empires are temporary; God's kingdom through David's seed is eternal. Though Zerubbabel wouldn't see complete fulfillment, he participated in the redemptive line leading to Christ.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does knowing that God will eventually overthrow all earthly kingdoms encourage faithfulness when living under authorities opposed to God?
2. What does it mean to live with dual citizenship—as members of God's eternal kingdom while functioning within temporary earthly systems?
3. How do you maintain hope and perspective when God's promises seem delayed or when circumstances suggest His kingdom is weak?

## Interlinear Text

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מִרְעָ יֵשׁ	אֲנִי	יֹאמֶר	הַ	יְהוּדָה	פָּחַת	לְ	זֶרֻבְבָּל	אֶל	יֹאמֶר
<b>I will shake</b>	<b>Speak</b>	<b>of Judah</b>	<b>governor</b>	<b>to Zerubbabel</b>	<b>Speak</b>				
H7493	H589	H559	H3063	H6346	H2216	H413			H559

  

הָאָרֶץ:	וְאֶת	הַשָּׁמַיִם	אֶת
<b>and the earth</b>		<b>the heavens</b>	
H776	H853	H8064	H853

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 5:2** (Parallel theme): Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.

**Haggai 1:1** (Parallel theme): In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

**Psalms 46:6** (Parallel theme): The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

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