

# Haggai 2:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

## Analysis

**And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother** (וְהִפְכַּתִּי כִּסֵּא מַמְלָכּוֹת וְהַשְׁמַדֵּת חַזְקָה) vehafakhti kise mamlakhot vehishmadti chozek mamlakhot—God elaborates the "shaking" with vivid destruction imagery. **I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms** (הִפְכַּתִּי כִּסֵּא מַמְלָכּוֹת) means overturn, overthrow, turn upside down—total reversal. Every earthly throne—symbol of human power and authority—will be toppled.

**I will destroy the strength of kingdoms** (וְהַשְׁמַדֵּת חַזְקָה/hishmadti chozek mamlakhot)—not merely defeat but **destroy** (שִׁמְדָּד/shamad, annihilate, obliterate) their **strength** (חַזְקָה/chozek, power, might). Military power—**chariots** (מְרַכְבָּה/merkavah), **horses** (סְוסִים/susim), **riders** (רַכְבִּים/rokhvim)—will be overthrown. **Every one by the sword of his brother** (אִישׁ בָּחֶרֶב אֶחָיו/ish becherev achiv)—internal conflict will destroy them, echoing Judges 7:22 (Gideon's victory) and 1 Samuel 14:20 (Jonathan's triumph).

This prophecy assures that no earthly power can ultimately oppose God's kingdom. Rome seemed invincible yet fell. Every empire that seemed permanent crumbled. Meanwhile, God's kingdom—established through Christ—advances irresistibly (Daniel 2:44-45). The stone cut without hands smashes all earthly kingdoms and fills the earth.

## Historical Context

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In 520 BC, Persia seemed invincible—the superpower controlling from India to Egypt. Yet God promised its eventual overthrow (fulfilled in 331 BC by Alexander). Alexander's empire fragmented. Rome rose and fell. Every kingdom that seemed permanent proved temporary. Only God's kingdom—inaugurated by Christ, advancing through the church—endures eternally. History vindicates God's word: earthly powers are dust, but His kingdom stands forever (Isaiah 40:15-17, 23-24).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing the temporary nature of all earthly kingdoms—political, economic, ideological—free you from either fear or idolatrous hope in them?
2. What does it mean to live as citizens of God's unshakable kingdom while earthly systems rise and fall?
3. How does Jesus Christ fulfill this prophecy as the King whose kingdom destroys all opposing powers and reigns eternally (Revelation 19:11-16)?

## Interlinear Text

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חִזְקָה וְשִׁמְדָת מַלְכָׁת כֶּסֶף וְכָסֶף  
And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms and I will destroy the strength  
H2015 H3678 H4467 H8045 H2392

מַלְכָׁת כָּסֶף וְכָסֶף וְכָבֵד מִרְכָּבָה וְכָבֵד מִרְכָּבָה  
of kingdoms of the heathen And I will overthrow the chariots and their riders  
H4467 H1471 H2015 H4818 H7392

בְּחִזְקָה אֲשֶׁר כָּבֵד סִוסִים וְכָבֵד אֲשֶׁר כָּבֵד בְּחִזְקָה  
shall come down in them and the horses and their riders every one by the sword  
H3381 H5483 H7392 H376 H2719

אֶחָיו:  
of his brother  
H251

## Additional Cross-References

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**Micah 5:10** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots:

**Judges 7:22** (Word): And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Beth-shittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abel-meholah, unto Tabbath.

**Psalms 46:9** (Parallel theme): He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

**Zechariah 4:6** (Word): Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Zechariah 10:11** (Parallel theme): And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall

dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away.

**Matthew 24:7** (Kingdom): For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

**Ezekiel 39:20** (Parallel theme): Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

**Micah 5:15** (Parallel theme): And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

**Zephaniah 3:8** (Kingdom): Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

**Psalms 76:6** (Parallel theme): At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep.