

Haggai 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

Analysis

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land—God shifts from immediate encouragement to eschatological promise. The phrase "yet once" (עוד אחת/od achat) indicates a decisive, climactic divine intervention still to come. "It is a little while" (היא מעתה/me'at hi) expresses God's temporal perspective—what seems delayed to humans is imminent from His eternal viewpoint (2 Peter 3:8).

"I will shake" (וְשַׁקֵּחַ/ve'shaqeqah) describes violent, comprehensive upheaval. The Hebrew verb שָׁקַע (ra'ash) conveys trembling, quaking, agitation—earthquake-like disturbance that destabilizes established order. God announces His intention to shake "the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land"—a merism encompassing all creation, leaving nothing untouched by divine intervention.

This shaking isn't arbitrary destruction but purposeful judgment and purification. Hebrews 12:25-29 applies this prophecy to the new covenant era, distinguishing between what can be shaken (temporary, created order) and what cannot be shaken (God's eternal kingdom). The author warns against refusing God's voice and exhorts believers to receive the unshakable kingdom with gratitude, worshiping God acceptably with reverence and awe.

Theologically, this verse points to both Christ's first advent (which shook the religious, political, and cosmic order through incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection)

and His second coming (when heaven and earth will be renewed—Revelation 21:1). The shaking removes what is false, temporary, and idolatrous, leaving only what is true, eternal, and centered on God. For believers, this is both sobering (all will be tested) and encouraging (what is built on Christ endures).

Historical Context

Haggai's original audience lived in the Persian Empire's relative stability. Darius I had consolidated power, Jerusalem was being rebuilt, and life was settling into patterns. Yet God announces coming cosmic upheaval—the status quo won't last. This served dual purposes: it warned against complacency (present stability isn't ultimate) and encouraged hope (God will intervene decisively to establish His kingdom).

The imagery of shaking echoes theophanies throughout Scripture—Sinai shook when God descended (Exodus 19:18), the earth quaked when God judged (Psalm 18:7), and prophets envisioned future cosmic disturbances signaling the Day of the Lord (Joel 2:10, Isaiah 13:13). Haggai situates his generation within this larger redemptive-historical arc moving toward final consummation.

History proved God's word true. The Persian Empire eventually fell to Alexander. The Greek Empire gave way to Rome. Rome itself would be 'shaken' by Christianity. The temple Haggai's generation built was destroyed in AD 70. Through all these shakings, God's purposes advanced toward Christ's return and the new creation where righteousness dwells. Every political, economic, and religious system that seemed permanent has been or will be shaken—only God's kingdom endures.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What in your life, church, or society seems unshakable but may be temporary and subject to God's purifying judgment?
2. How does living in light of God's coming cosmic shaking affect priorities, investments, and where you place security and hope?
3. What does it mean practically to 'receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken' and to worship God with reverence and awe in light of coming judgment?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶבְאָרֶת אֶת־עַד אֶמְתַּת אֶמְתַּת
H3588 H3541 For thus saith the LORD of hosts Yet once
H559 H3068 H6635 H5750 H259

וְאַתָּה בְּשָׁמְךָ מְרֻעֵישׁ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ מְעֻט
it is a little while and I will shake the heavens
H4592 H1931 H589 H7493 H853 H8064

וְאַתָּה בְּשָׁמְךָ הַמְּרֻעֵישׁ אֶת־הַיָּם אֶת־הַיָּם
and the earth and the sea and the dry
H776 H853 H3220 H853 H2724

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:25 (Parallel theme): For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction.

Isaiah 29:17 (Parallel theme): Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?

Acts 2:19 (Parallel theme): And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

Joel 3:16 (References Lord): The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Hebrews 10:37 (Parallel theme): For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Isaiah 34:4 (Parallel theme): And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

Jeremiah 51:33 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon is like a threshingfloor, it is time to thresh her: yet a little while, and the time of her harvest shall come.

Ezekiel 38:20 (Parallel theme): So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

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