

Haggai 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Analysis

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.—This verse addresses the underlying anxiety about resources. The people worried they couldn't afford to build a temple matching Solomon's glory because they lacked wealth. God's response is radical: He owns all wealth—every ounce of silver (**חֲזֵקָה**/hakesef) and gold (**כָּהָבָה**/hazahav) in existence belongs to Him. Therefore, lack of resources isn't the issue; God's will and purpose are decisive.

This declaration establishes God's absolute ownership of all creation. Psalm 24:1 affirms, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof." Psalm 50:10-12 pictures God saying, "Every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills... for the world and its fullness are mine." Haggai applies this truth specifically to precious metals—the very materials Solomon used to ornament the first temple. If God owns all silver and gold, He can provide whatever His purposes require.

The statement also relativizes material wealth's importance. Human kingdoms measure glory by gold accumulation, but God measures glory by His presence. The second temple didn't need to match Solomon's wealth to fulfill God's purposes—it needed to house the Messiah, which is infinitely more valuable. Jesus later taught, "Do not lay up treasures on earth... but lay up treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-20), redirecting focus from material to eternal wealth.

For the church, this verse liberates from both poverty-anxiety and prosperity-

idolatry. Lack of resources doesn't limit God's work—He owns everything and provides what His purposes require. Conversely, abundance of resources doesn't guarantee God's blessing or presence—He values obedience, faithfulness, and hearts aligned with His purposes over bank accounts. Paul learned this secret: "I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound... I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:12-13).

Historical Context

The returned exiles were economically struggling. Crop failures, limited trade, and modest populations meant they had minimal resources compared to Solomon's era, when Israel was wealthy and powerful. The temptation was to conclude that inadequate finances precluded building a worthy temple. God's declaration refuted this false premise.

Interestingly, God would soon shake the nations (v.6-7), and treasures from those nations would contribute to the temple and later to God's kingdom purposes. Haggai 2:7 promises that desirable things of nations will come. Historically, various rulers contributed to the Jerusalem temple. Cyrus returned vessels taken by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezra 1:7-11). Darius funded temple completion from royal revenues (Ezra 6:8). Artaxerxes gave Ezra authority and resources (Ezra 7:15-20).

Spiritually, this pattern continues in the church age. God moves in the hearts of generous givers to fund His kingdom work. Wealth accumulated by unbelievers is sometimes transferred to gospel purposes (Proverbs 13:22). More importantly, the true treasure God seeks is people from all nations—"you were ransomed... not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19). God's greatest treasure isn't metal but redeemed humanity.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's ownership of all silver and gold challenge anxiety about resources for ministry, missions, or obedience?
2. In what ways are you tempted to measure spiritual success by material resources rather than by God's presence, purposes, and faithfulness?
3. What is the relationship between trusting God's provision and stewarding wisely what He entrusts to you, without hoarding or fear?

Interlinear Text

אֲבָאוֹתִים יְהוָה תְּאַמֵּן בְּזַבְּחָה כְּסַפְּרָה לְיַד

H0 The silver H0 is mine and the gold is mine saith the LORD of hosts

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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 24:1 (References Lord): The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Isaiah 60:17 (Parallel theme): For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness.

Isaiah 60:13 (Parallel theme): The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.