

ADRIAN ROGERS

LEGACY

C O L L E C T I O N



H A G G A I

These transcripts are taken straight from live audio recordings of Adrian Rogers during his tenure as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. As such some of the transcripts may contain stutters, stammers, transcription errors, and other authentic remarks as would be common in a live setting.

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Haggai

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Standing on Solid Ground

By Adrian Rogers

Date Preached: November 11, 1990

Main Scripture Text: Haggai 1:1–7; 2:6–9, 16–17

“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.”

HAGGAI 2:6

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Introduction

The book of Haggai—if you have a Bible like mine, it’s on page 1167. If you don’t have a Bible like mine, why, just turn to the index, or keep on thumbing, and you’re going to find that little book of Haggai—only two chapters, but what a message! And actually, the message deals with the greatness of our God, the bigness of our God. Now we’re going to use a number of texts in Haggai, but I want you to look primarily here in chapter 2 and verse 6: *“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.”* (Haggai 2:6)

I want to speak to you tonight on this subject: “Standing on Solid Ground.” As you know, we’ve had predicted for us here in this area an earthquake, and I understand that on television tonight there’s the beginning of a miniseries on earthquakes. And earthquakes are in the news. Recently in Iran there was an earthquake. Not so long ago, as you know, in San Francisco, there was a major earthquake. Well, having said that, I think it’s altogether fitting that we look into the Word of God and see what God

has to say about it.

Now what I have to say tonight is wrapped up in the greatness and the bigness of our God. Now, dear friend, if there was ever a day that we needed to see how big God is, it is this day and this age. J. B. Phillips wrote a book one time entitled *Your God is Too Small*. Now I don't mean tonight to tell you that we're going to be able to understand God. No, you can't understand God. Job asked the question, "Can a man by reasoning understand God?" (Job 11:7) And the answer, of course, is no, for God says, "*My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways...as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*" (Isaiah 55:8–9) And the Apostle Paul just exclaimed in Romans 11:33, "*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*" (Romans 11:33) So, put it down, my dear friend: *You cannot fathom God, but you can find God.* You cannot fathom God because of His greatness, but you can find God because of His grace. You don't have to understand God to know God.

When I was a little boy, my dad went off to work. I had no idea where he went, what he did. And when he came back home, he was still my daddy. I loved him. He loved me. I knew him. And he knew me. I didn't understand my dad. But I knew my dad. He was my daddy, and I was his child. And isn't it wonderful that we don't have to understand God? *I wouldn't have any confidence in a God that I could understand.*

But there is a God that we can know, and in the book of Haggai He is called by this phrase: "*the LORD of hosts.*" Notice in verse 6: "*For thus saith the LORD of hosts...*" (Haggai 2:6) Now that is in the Hebrew, "the Lord of Sabaoth," and we sing about the Lord Sabaoth in that song "A Mighty Fortress is our God." Martin Luther wrote:

*Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth [is] His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.*

—MARTIN LUTHER

Now that's what the book here of Haggai is talking about, and fourteen times He is called here "the Lord of hosts." The New International Version translates this name "the Lord Almighty"—"the Lord Almighty." And it talks about the greatness of God. When He's called "the Lord of hosts," it means all of the armies of heaven are at His command. It was the name that David used when he came against Goliath, and David said to Goliath, "*Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but*"—he said—"*I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts.*" (1 Samuel 17:45) You see, David was not looking to see how much bigger Goliath was than he, David, was,

but David was thinking how much smaller Goliath was than God was. *“I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts”*—and that name is used, as I say, fourteen times in these two chapters of this small book of Haggai.

Now, what does all that have to do with earthquakes? Well, in this book he talks about the three major problems that everybody in the Mid-South is talking about. Let me tell you what they are: number one, earthquakes; number two, the economy; and, number three, Saddam Hussein. Those are the three things everybody has on their mind. And I want to tell you the book of Haggai talks about all three. And we’re going to see that when you get your eyes upon the Lord of hosts, and when you see who the Lord of hosts is, you’re going to see earthquakes, the economy, and the enemy from a different point of view. And I just hope tonight that I can show you just how big our God is.

I. God Is Bigger Than Predicted Earthquakes

Now the first thing I want you to see is this: that God is bigger than predicted earthquakes. Again, I read to you in chapter 2 and verse 6: *“For thus saith the LORD of hosts;”—that is, “the Lord Almighty”—“Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land.”* (Haggai 2:6) And then, look over, if you will, at verse 21: *“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth.”* (Haggai 2:21)

A. He Created the Universe

Now I want you to think of our Lord, the Lord Almighty, the Lord of hosts, first of all, as the Creator of this physical, material universe. Have you ever thought about how a modern writer would describe God’s creation of the universe—I mean, how he would pour adjective upon adjective and an avalanche of verbs and verbiage? But when the Bible describes the creation, it talks of all of the stars of heaven. Genesis 1:16 just puts it in this little phrase: *“He made the stars also.”* (Genesis 1:16)

B. He Controls the Universe

I was doing a little study about solar system and the stars, and I was reminded one more time of what you know already: that the solar system that we live in has the sun for its center. That’s the reason we call it the solar system. And around that central body we have the nine planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. And then, these have twenty-eight moons. And then, there are thousands of lesser bodies called planetoids. And these are all out there in a system going round and round our sun and round and round one another. And then, you just take one of those planets—we think that we live on a pretty large body of dirt floating in space, but may I tell you that Jupiter, for example, is thirteen hundred times bigger than

Planet Earth. Our sun is part of the Milky Way galaxy, and the Milky Way galaxy consists of billions of stars. And some of those stars have a diameter—are you listening?—of more than 300 million miles. That’s the diameter of some of the stars in our Milky Way. And our Milky Way is just one of many galaxies—God only knows how many galaxies. And yet our Lord just controls all of these stars. He keeps them in their courses, and they move. There are no cosmic collisions that would cause a chain reaction. The Bible says concerning our Lord, *“By him all things consist.”* (Colossians 1:17)

C. He Will Consummate the Universe

You see, He is the Creator of this universe. And, my dear friend, He is the Controller of this universe. And I want to say He’s the One who’s going to consummate this universe, and that’s what Haggai is talking about. “There’s coming a time,” he says, “when not only am I going to shake the earth; I am going to shake the heavens.” (Haggai 2:6) And what he is saying is this: that all of the stable things that we know are going to be shaken. The God who stretched them out like a curtain is going to roll them up like a scroll. We’re headed, folks, for a shakedown—no ifs, ands, and buts about it.

Put this verse in your margin: Hebrews 12:26–27. Here’s what God is up to. The Bible speaks of God, *“whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”* (Hebrews 12:26–27) God says, “This earth is headed for a shakedown, and I’m going to shake it in such a way that everything that is not nailed down by the hammer of God’s Word is going to come loose.”

I think it’s highly appropriate that we’re living in these days when earthquakes are in the headlines. Do you remember what Jesus said, speaking of the last days in Matthew 24, beginning in verse 6? Jesus said, *“Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars:”—*well, we’re hearing those—*“see that ye be not troubled:”—*how many of you are troubled? Jesus said, “Don’t be troubled”—*“for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines,”—*and we see them—*“and pestilences,”—*and we see them—*“and earthquakes, in divers places.”* And then He says, *“All these are the beginning of sorrows.”* (Matthew 24:6–8) And the word *sorrows* is the word that is used for labor pains or birth pains. When you see earthquakes and wars and famines and pestilences, these are the birth pains that tell us something is about to come forth. I have discovered something in my study of the Word of God—and it is this: that when God gets ready to do something in the spiritual world, He says *amen* in the physical world with an earthquake. God uses earthquakes to jolt the physical world. God uses

earthquakes as His alarm clock to jolt this sleeping world. It is God's way of saying, "Wake up!" It is God's way of saying, "Pay attention!"

Now we know that earthquakes are on the increase. As a matter of fact, we have a man, Iben Browning, who says there's a better than even chance a large earthquake will occur along a wide band that includes us, the New Madrid Fault. And actually, I understand that one of the greatest earthquakes that the United States has ever known took place in this area some time ago. I read where Gabriel Leblanc declared—and I quote—"that once there has been an earthquake in an area, we know that it will experience more earthquakes and they will be of equal or greater magnitude." And I tried to study the history of earthquakes, and I found out, according to the best history that I could find, that there were 137 major earthquakes reported in the fourteenth century, 174 major earthquakes reported in the fifteenth century, 253 earthquakes—major earthquakes—in the sixteenth century—are you listening to this?—2,250 major earthquakes in this century.

The most quoted seismologist is Dan Anderson, Director of Caltech Seismology Laboratory in Pasadena, and Dr. Anderson warns that there is concrete evidence that the earth may soon suffer a number of cataclysmic earthquakes. And here's his reasoning. He points out that major earthquakes occur when the earth's rotations—daily earth rotations—slow, and when the North Pole wobbles away from its normal position with respect to the heavens. And he said—and I quote—"The earth's rotation has been slowing down at about one thousandth of a second daily for the past five years." I've noticed that, haven't you? And he says that the North Pole has been wobbling about as much as fifteen feet out of its normal position. And so he says, because of that, there are certain stresses that may trigger earthquakes. Incidentally, somebody posted this sign in a Palm Springs, California, high school in 1975 that said, "In event of an earthquake, the Supreme Court ruling against prayers in schools will be temporarily suspended."

Well, there are earthquakes, according to the Word of God. And Jesus seems to indicate that they are a sign of His soon coming. And I want you to think about how God has used earthquakes in the material realm as an illustration of His power and of His authority in this world. An earthquake really does illustrate the power of God. I read in my study that the average major earthquake is a hundred thousand times more powerful than the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima.

Now I want you to take the Word of God, and let's just look at some earthquakes in the Bible. And I want you to see how God uses earthquakes to say, "Wake up, and pay attention: what I'm doing is important."

1. The Earthquake of Redemption

Turn with me, for example, to Matthew 27 in the Word of God—Matthew 27—and I want

you to read here concerning the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And you're going to find out that when Jesus died on the cross, God sent an earthquake. The Bible says here, "*And, behold...*"—this is when Jesus was on the cross and He yielded up the ghost—"*And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.*" (Matthew 27:51) That is, the rocks were split. When Jesus Christ died, it seems as if the death of the Lord Jesus broke the heart of Mother Earth. I think some men must have hearts harder than rocks if it does not break their heart. I wonder, has the death that shook the world disturbed your heart?

2. The Earthquake of Resurrection

The first earthquake I mention is the earthquake of redemption. When Jesus died, the earth shook. And then, turn with me to Matthew 28 for just a moment. Just turn over just a few pages and look in Matthew 28, verses 1 and 2: "*In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.*" (Matthew 28:1–2) Not only was there the earthquake of redemption; there was the earthquake of resurrection. When Jesus Christ came out of that grave, God said *amen* with an earthquake. He shook the earth with an earthquake to illustrate what the Apostle Paul called "*the power of his resurrection.*" (Philippians 3:10)

3. The Earthquake of Revival

Then, look with me in the book of Acts, in Acts 4:31. The apostles had been threatened and told not to preach anymore; and so they went back to the prayer meeting, and the Bible says in verse 31, "*And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together.*" (Acts 4:31) God sent an earthquake. How many times we have prayed, "Lord, shake this place!" I think we'd die of a heart attack if He did. But these people prayed, and God literally shook the building when they prayed. The Bible says, "*The place was shaken.*" I don't take that to be symbolic or metaphorical; I take that to be literal. God literally shook the place when they prayed. They weren't Quakers; they were *earthquakers*.

I believe that what God is saying is, when Jesus died, He shook the earth. He's saying there is power in the blood. When Jesus came out of the earth, out of the grave, God shook the earth. He's saying there's the power of the resurrection. When God's people prayed, the Holy Spirit came. God shook the earth to say there is power in prayer to make hell's foundations quiver.

4. The Earthquake of Retribution

And then, my dear friend, not only the earthquake of redemption, and resurrection, and

the earthquake of revival, but the greatest earthquakes are in the future. These I want to call the earthquakes of retribution. Turn with me to the book of Revelation for a moment, and look with me in that wonderful book. I want to show you that the book of the revelation of things to come is full of earthquakes. Mother Earth is a seething, pulsating caldron of quivering power ready to be released.

Revelation 6:12—the Bible talks about the beginning of the Great Tribulation, and it says, *“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.”* (Revelation 6:12) I believe there will be such volcanic smoke at this earthquake that it will seem like the moon will hang in the sky like a clot of blood. You’ll not even be able to see the sunlight. And then, look, if you will, in Revelation 8:5: *“And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.”* (Revelation 8:5) Look, if you will, in chapter 11, verse 13, of this same book of God’s Word. The Bible says, *“And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.”* (Revelation 11:13) Then look, if you will, in chapter 16, verse 18. It’s amazing how many earthquakes are predicted in the time of the Great Tribulation. Chapter 16, verse 18: *“And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings;”*—and now, listen to this one—*“there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.”* (Revelation 16:18) My friend, I want to tell you this book is crammed full of predictions of earthquakes, whether it be the earthquake of redemption, the earthquake of resurrection, the earthquake of revival, or the earthquake of retribution. When God gets ready to do something in the spiritual realm, He seems to say *amen* with an earthquake in the material realm. And that’s the reason Jesus talked about His Second Coming as a time that would be marked by earthquakes.

As a matter of fact, I believe that Soviet Russia is going to meet her doom in the land of Israel as a result of an earthquake. I want you to turn to Ezekiel 38 with me for just one moment. And you remember that I preached so many times that there’s coming a northern power, which, in my estimation, beyond the shadow of any doubt, speaks of Soviet Russia. Russia is going to invade Israel in the last days. As a matter of fact, we have often wondered how Russia was going to intrude her presence into the Middle East, and little did we imagine that the President of the United States would invite the Soviets in. And now we are cooperating with the Soviets and saying, “Come on in and help us in the war against Saddam Hussein.” But, my dear friend, the old Russian bear, who has run out of resources, and is sniffing out oil and wanting a warm water port, has gladly said, “Yes, we’ll come in, and we will pretend to be allies with the United States.”

But the Bible makes it very clear and very plain that in the last days Russia will invade Israel. And when they do invade Israel, God is going to do something. God is going to bring the Soviets to their knees not with an atomic bomb, and not with the Israeli Air Force, not with the aid of the United States; but God Himself is going to do something.

Look in Ezekiel 38 and begin in verse 18, and the Bible says, *“And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog”—that’s God’s name for the Russians—“shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face...”*—now, friend, that’s a time I wouldn’t want to be Gog, whoever he is—*“that my fury...”*—God says—*“my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken,”*—my dear friends, I don’t know of any more powerful language in the Bible than those sentences right there. And then God says—*“Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; 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.”* God is going to send an incredible earthquake at that time. And then God says in verse 21, *“And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man’s sword shall be against his brother.”* That is, there’s going to be such confusion among the enemy that they will begin to kill one another. *“And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.”* And notice in verse 23: *“Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.”* (Ezekiel 38:18–23)

God says, “I’m going to shake this world in such a way, I’m going to bring my judgment upon that Soviet army in such a way, that the nations of this world will know that I am God.” And the Bible indicates that there’s going to be a spiritual awakening beginning in the nation of Israel. And I believe this is one of the things that’s going to cause the Antichrist to turn on Israel in the middle of the Great Tribulation. And I believe this will happen after the Rapture of the Church, because the Bible says Israel will be dwelling safely. (Ezekiel 28:26) And I take that to mean that she will have made a covenant with Antichrist. I don’t want to get in too deep except to say, dear friend, that the Bible has so much to say about earthquakes in His prophetic plan.

5. The Earthquake of Reign

And then, of course, the great earthquake that is yet to come—and what a wonderful earthquake that will be! Turn to the book of Zechariah, if you will with me now, just past Haggai, back to Zechariah chapter 14. This is the earthquake that I want to rejoice in tonight, and I want you to see it. Zechariah 14:4–5—the Bible speaks of the coming of

our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus went up from the Mount of Olives. And Jesus Christ is coming back to the Mount of Olives. The Bible speaks of the day when Jesus will return, and the Bible says, *“And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.”* (Zechariah 14:4–5) What a day that will be!

As I preached this morning, first, Jesus is coming to take His Church out for a blessed honeymoon in the skies, and there will be here on earth a period of great tribulation. And then, our Lord will come in power and glory with that sword that goes out of His mouth that we preached about this morning. And those blessed nail-pierced feet that left the Mount of Olives almost two thousand years ago will come down on the Mount of Olives. And when His feet touch the Mount of Olives, the Bible says there’s going to be a great earthquake that will literally split the Mount of Olives. The most earthshaking day of all is the time of the Second Coming of Jesus—and what a day that’s going to be! And, my dear friend, there’s the earthquake, as I’ve said, of resurrection, and the earthquake of redemption, and the earthquake of resurrection, the earthquake of revival, the earthquake of retribution; but, oh, the earthquake of reign, when the Lord Jesus comes to rule and to reign!

Well, go back with me, after we’ve taken that little expedition through the Bible, and go back to the book of Haggai with me for a moment. And I want you to understand this—I want you to understand this, dear friend: that God is in control of all of this; that nothing has gotten out of hand, nothing takes God by surprise; that God is the One who controls it all. And the Bible says in Psalm 33:6, *“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”* (Psalms 33:6) And He controls the earth, the heavens, the sea; and no matter what happens—no matter what happens—we know that God is in control.

Now, what are you going to do if an earthquake hits here? And it may. It may not. You say, “Pastor, you’re getting me a little nervous, to tell you the truth.” Well, what are you going to do? Well, let me tell you what to do, dear friend. Just find some solid ground to stand on—and I don’t mean material ground. You’d better find something that you can trust in besides the prognostications of men. The Bible says in Hebrews 12:26, *“Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”* (Hebrews 12:26–27)

When everything that's not nailed down may come loose, you'd better find a firm place to stand.

And I'm telling you, some in this building are on shaky ground. Christ is the solid rock. And if you want a verse to put on your refrigerator for the next few days, how about Psalm 46:2? Here it is: *"Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea,"* for *"the LORD of hosts is with us."* (Psalm 46:2, 7) That's a great verse, folks. You might put it in your breast pocket. You might need it soon. Let me give it to you again. Psalm 46:2: *"Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea,"* for *"the LORD of hosts is with us."* You'd better find some solid ground to stand on.

II. God Is Bigger Than Problem Economics

Now, go back, if you will again, to Haggai, and I want to show you something else. Not only is God bigger than predicted earthquakes; but God also, my dear friend, is bigger than problem economics. I want you to look, if you will, in chapter 1 here, for just a moment, of Haggai—and chapter 1, beginning in verse 3: *"Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?"* He was talking about the temple. The people had come back from Babylon, and the temple had been destroyed. And they built for themselves palatial houses with ceilings in them, but they'd forgotten God's house. Now, notice verse 5: *"Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."* And I want you to notice this time of depression, economic depression, they were in: *"Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes."* Can you say *amen* to that? There are a lot of people who'll say, "Yeah, that's exactly where I have been. It seems like I put my money in a bag, and it must have a hole in it." Now, notice what he says in verse 7: *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts;"*—"the Lord Almighty"—*"Consider your ways."* (Haggai 1:1–7) God is bigger than problem economics.

Now He's the One who controls the law of sowing and reaping. Notice verse 6: *"Ye have sown much, and bring in little."* (Haggai 1:6) Now, why was it? Because there was a blight on the harvest. It wasn't that they weren't experts in planting. It wasn't that they were not working hard. Yet there was a national depression. Look at it, if you will—chapter 2, verses 16 and 17: *"Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty."* And God says, *"I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not*

to me, saith the LORD.” (Haggai 2:16–17)

Now, what caused this depression? The God of love caused this depression. Why is America having economic problems? God is causing it. You say, “Why is God causing it?” Because we don’t know how to handle blessings. You see, every time God blesses us economically, we turn from God. Now America has been, as it were, cursed with blessings. And so now God is going to bless us with cursings.

Have you ever thought how God controls the economy? I mean, suppose you were a fisherman. Remember the Lord Jesus sent His disciples out. They fished all night, and they came back empty. Now these were professional fishermen, and the Lord was just trying to teach them a lesson. And the Lord had a school of fish, and when that school of fish had be heading toward those nets, there would be just a bleeper in the brain of one of those fish, and God would say, “Turn right, turn left,” and those fish missed the net, and they came to Jesus. And they said, “*We have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing.*” (Luke 5:5) Anything that begins with *we* ends with nothing. And then the Lord said, “All right now, cast your net on the other side of the boat.” This time the Lord says, “Turn left,” and those fish went into that net. And there was such a catch of fish that the nets broke. What’s this teaching us? Dear friend, it’s teaching us that God is the God of the harvest.

And I want us to remember this: In a time of earthquakes, God is God. In a time of economic problems, God is bigger than these problems. And if you’re a child of God, your standard of living may change, but not your standard of life, if you know the Lord Jesus Christ. God is trying to say something to America. Look in chapter 2, verse 17: “*I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the Lord.*” (Haggai 2:17) We have an America that’s turning to everything. I just read that the recent elections made us more liberal yet.

III. God Is Bigger Than Powerful Enemies

Now there’s one other thing I want to show you that God is bigger than. Not only God is bigger than predicted earthquakes, and problem economics; but God, my dear friend, the God Almighty, is bigger than powerful enemies—bigger than powerful enemies. Look, if you will now, in chapter 2, verse 7. God says, “*And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come.*”—do you know who the desire of all nations is? You know what the people are really looking for and don’t know it? Jesus—“*and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.*” And then God looks into the future and He says, “*The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.*” (Haggai 2:7–9) And He was predicting the time when the Lord Jesus would come and rule and reign, because there will be no

peace without the Prince of Peace.

But I want you to go back to the time when Haggai wrote. Let me just tell you what happened. In 587, another Babylonian bully named Nebuchadnezzar had come against these people. He had carried them away into captivity, and they stayed captive seventy years in Babylon. And then they returned back to the land. When they returned back to the land, there was no temple. They wanted to build a temple. And do you know what happened? The king of Persia, a pagan king, allowed the Jews to return. He gave them cedar wood to build the temple with. He provided the labor to build the temple. He underwrote all the expenses. And then he returned and gave back to the Jews five thousand gold and silver vessels to be used in the temple.

Now this was a pagan king. His name was Cyrus. Why did he do it? He was a heathen man, a pagan, a Persian from Iran. Why did he do it? Well, turn to Ezra 1 for just a moment—and I'm almost finished—verses 1 and 2. This will thrill you. Ezra 1:1–2: *“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled,”*—that is, “in order that prophecy might be fulfilled”—*“the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.”* (Ezra 1:1–2) Now I want to submit to you, that's one of the most remarkable things in the Bible. Cyrus, a pagan king, said, “God told me to build Him a house in Jerusalem in Judah.” If ever a Proverbs 21:1 was fulfilled, it's right here, which says, *“The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”* (Proverbs 21:1)

Conclusion

Now, what am I saying? Listen to me. And if you don't get anything else, those of you who've got earthquake heebie-jeebies, and those of you who have economic gloom and doom, and those of you who have political fears, here's what God is saying in the book of Haggai: “I am the Lord of hosts. I am the Lord Almighty. I am bigger than this earthquake. I am bigger than this economy. And I am bigger than this enemy. And I can take pagan kings and make them do my will.” Remember this about history: History is His story, and history is not in the hands of Washington, or the Kremlin, or the OPEC nations, or in the hand of Islam, or in Washington, or in London, or in Baghdad, or with Saddam Hussein. History is His story. It is in the hand of God. And the UN may meet in emergency session, but never the Holy Trinity. As I've told you before, *there's no panic in heaven*. God knows what He's up to. And the answer, of course, is in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Well, how big is God? He's big enough to rule this mighty universe, and He's small enough to live within my heart.

The Greatness of Our God

By Adrian Rogers

Date Preached: March 13, 1988

Main Scripture Text: Haggai 1: 3–6, 9; 2:6–7, 21

“And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.”

HAGGAI 2:7

Outline

Introduction

- I. He Is Lord of the Physical World
 - A. He Created the Universe
 - B. He Controls the Universe
 - C. He Will Consummate the Universe
- II. He Is Lord of the Professional World
- III. He Is Lord of the Political World

Conclusion

Introduction

Would you get your Bibles out right now and start looking for the book of Haggai? Would you do that right now? And if you have a Bible like mine, it's 1377—one thousand three hundred and seventy-seven. If you don't have one like mine, lick your fingers and begin to look. I'll give you a clue: if you go to Malachi, which is the last book in the Bible, and then turn left and go back two books, you'll find Haggai. All right, the book of Haggai. Now, just keep on flipping those pages. Your neighbor is going to be just as embarrassed as you are till you find the book of Haggai. We don't study Haggai too often because Haggai is what we call a minor prophet, but I want to tell you, there is nothing minor about his message. And I feel that the message from Haggai is going to be very, very important for us. While you are turning, just keep on turning and listening at the same time.

Don't you have a feeling stirring deep in your heart that we are coming to a climax in history? Don't you really? I mean, you know, you say, “Well, preachers have said that since Hector was a pup.” And that is true. But, folks, I tell you, there is a feeling there is something in the air when you see all of the scandals in politics, and scandals in television evangelism, and we see the turmoil in the Middle East, and we see all of the nations of the world in upheaval, and we see economic problems on every hand, and

we see the specter of AIDS, something that we've never faced before. The news is ominous. And some of us, we've almost just built a shell around us; we don't even want to look at the front page anymore. When is the last time you can ever remember seeing good news on the front page of the paper? I mean, you just cannot remember it. You just cannot remember seeing good news in the headlines. Day after day after day after day, it is something very ominous.

Well, I want to bring some hope into your heart today, and I want to show you just the greatness of our God. And I guess I'll just call the message "The Greatness of Our God." Would you look, please, in Haggai chapter 2 and verse 6—Haggai chapter 2 and verse 6: *"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; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come."*—of course, you know that is Jesus—*"and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts."* (Haggai 2:6–7)

Now, notice how the Lord is called here in this passage of Scripture *"the LORD of hosts."* The phrase *"the LORD of hosts"* is actually "the Lord Sabaoth." Have you ever heard that word before? I think you have, if you'll think about it—the Lord Sabaoth. As a matter of fact, if you have sung the song "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," you will remember that Martin Luther wrote:

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.*

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is he.

Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same.

And he must win the battle.

—MARTIN LUTHER

Now we're going to talk about the Lord of hosts, and actually, the idea of the Lord of hosts, Lord Sabaoth, literally means—the NIV translates it this way: "the Lord Almighty"—"the Lord Almighty." It was the name that David used when he came against Goliath. He said to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword and a spear and a shield; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the Lord Sabaoth, the Lord Almighty." (1 Samuel 17:45) And in the midst of all these troubles, I want you to get a glimpse of Almighty God.

Now, you see, dear friend, you cannot understand God; but you don't have to understand God to know God. Nobody can really understand God. But the Bible speaks of the peace of God, and it says, *"The peace of God...passeth...understanding."* (Philippians 4:7) The Bible speaks of the love of God, and the Bible says, "The love of God passes knowledge." (Ephesians 3:19) Romans chapter 11 and verse 33 says, *"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"* (Romans 11:33) You say, "Well, I

don't understand God." I'm glad you don't. I wouldn't have any confidence in a God we could understand. Thank God that God is bigger than all of us. His love passes understanding. His peace is beyond knowledge. And no one can fathom the mind of God. But, dear friend, thank God you don't have to understand God to know God.

When I was a little boy, my daddy would go off to work and come home. I didn't have the foggiest as to where he went or what he did till I got to be six, seven, eight, and I found out that my daddy worked for the Buick motor company. He went off and sold Buick automobiles. But I didn't know that when I was a little boy; I just knew my daddy left and then he came back. But I knew him; I knew my dad. I didn't have to know what my dad did to know him. I could sit in his lap, and he could hug me. I could rub his beard. He was my daddy. But I didn't know all that he did.

Friend, isn't it wonderful that we can know God? And what I want to tell you, dear friend, is there are three things about God that I really believe you need to see in the little book of Haggai. There are three things that are really bothering us. One: All of the things that are happening in God's physical, material universe. Next: All of the things that are happening in the world's economy. And the third thing that is bothering us is the world's political situation. I mean, we are bothered with the physical situation—cataclysmic things, drought, earthquakes, famines, AIDS, all everything in the physical world that's got us all uptight. And then, secondly, we have this economic thing. Everybody's worried about making a living. We're worried about the national debt. We're worried about recession. We're worried about inflation. We're worried about stock market collapse, Social Security, and all of these things. And then, the last thing we're worried about is the political situation—what's going to happen politically. Well, believe it or not, that's what the book of Haggai deals with, and we're going to look at that.

I. He Is Lord of the Physical World

First of all, I want you to see that our Lord here is described—the Lord Almighty—He is described, first of all, as the Lord of the physical world. He is the Lord of the physical world. Look, if you will again in chapter 2, verse 6: *“For thus saith the LORD of hosts;”—* that means “the Lord Almighty”—*“Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land.”* (Haggai 2:6) And then, look over, if you will, in chapter 2, verse 21: *“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth.”* (Haggai 2:21) Now, what is God saying? God is saying, “There's a lot of shaking going on, and I'm the One who is doing it.”

A. He Created the Universe

Now God is the Lord of the universe. He is the Lord of the physical world. He created the physical world. In my study just a little while ago I thought I would go back and read

the story of the creation just before I came out here, and I was amused and amazed when I read in Genesis chapter 1 and verse 16 where it describes God making the stars. And do you know what it says? It says, *“He made the stars also.”* (Genesis 1:16) Now, you think about that: *“He made the stars also.”* Can you imagine somebody describing the creation of this universe? What an avalanche of words there would be! They would pile word upon word upon word. And the interesting thing is, if you get in the book of Exodus, you’re going to find chapter after chapter after chapter after chapter describing a little tent out in the wilderness called a tabernacle—chapter after chapter describing that tent. But when it talks about all of the mighty universe, it says, “He made the stars too.” That blessed me. I don’t know whether it blessed you. It really blessed me, because I saw, dear friend, that where the great heart of God is, is in redemption, because that tabernacle is a picture of our redemption, and God just simply flung out the stars; He just made the stars.

B. He Controls the Universe

He is the Lord of hosts. He is the Lord Almighty. He created the universe. And He controls the universe. God moves the stars around like checkers on a celestial chessboard. I was studying about our solar system. I think if I had not preached, I would love to have studied astronomy. I am taken away with the stars and space and all of this. You know, we have a solar system that is composed of a sun as a central body, and around this sun are those nine planets that go around this sun, which is the center of our solar system. There is Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, and these nine planets have twenty-eight moons and several thousand little tiny planets called planetoids that go around them. Now you might think that Earth is a pretty good-sized space, but I want to remind you how big Jupiter is. Do you know how big Jupiter is? Jupiter is thirteen hundred times as large as Planet Earth. And then, you think of our galaxy, which is the Milky Way. Our galaxy is just one galaxy consisting of billions of stars, and some of those stars—are you ready for this? you talk about stars—they have a diameter as big as 300 million miles! That is, to bore from rim to rim you’d have to bore through that star 300 million miles. And there are billions of those stars out there. And then, that’s just one galaxy, and there are millions and billions of galaxies in the vast outer space of the universe. Think of it! And yet there are no cosmic collisions that would set off a chain reaction that would cause the universe to explode. All of it is controlled by the Lord of hosts.

C. He Will Consummate the Universe

Thank God He created the heavens. He controls the heavens. And—watch it—He will consummate the universe. He created it. He controls it. And He will consummate it. Now, look again in chapter 2, verse 6. He says, *“Yet once, it is a little while, and I will*

shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land." (Haggai 2:6) What God is saying is that the most stable things that we know are going to come unglued. The God who stretched them out like a curtain is going to roll them up like a scroll. We're headed, folks, for a shakedown, and I believe that shakedown has already begun—I really do.

Hebrews says the same thing—Hebrews chapter 12, beginning in verse 26—it speaks of God, *"whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."* (Hebrews 12:26–27) Do you know what that says? It says, "In the last days, God is going to shake everything that can be shaken, that what can't be shaken will remain." I believe we are seeing that. I believe we are seeing that in television evangelism. I believe we're seeing that in the church. I believe we're seeing that in the nation. I believe that God is shaking this world. Everything that is not nailed down is coming loose, and the devil is pulling nails as fast as he can. But thank God for the nails of grace and the hammer of the Word of God that binds us to Him. What God is saying is that this world, this universe, is to receive a shakedown. And I believe what Haggai is talking about is not only physical but also spiritual. But before God does something in the spiritual realm, He seems to signify with a shakedown in the physical realm.

I was studying about earthquakes. I believe that Haggai here is prophesying earthquakes when he says, *"I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land."* (Haggai 2:6) Jesus said in Matthew chapter 24, speaking of the last days, *"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation,"*—we're seeing that—*"and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines,"*—think of the famine right now in Ethiopia—*"and pestilences,"*—think of AIDS—*"and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrow."* (Matthew 24:6–8) That is, they are the beginning of birth pangs. That's what the word *sorrow* means here: "travail." When a woman begins to have those birth pangs, it means that something is about to come forth. And Jesus said that the famines, Jesus said that the wars, Jesus said that the pestilences, Jesus said that the earthquakes, all of these things tell us something is about to come forth.

When God gets ready to do something in the spiritual realm, He generally signifies it by an earthquake in the physical realm. The best history that we have shows that there were 137 major earthquakes in the fourteenth century, 174 major earthquakes in the fifteenth century, 253 major earthquakes in the sixteenth century, and 2215 major earthquakes in this century.

I read a long article on earthquakes a long time ago, and I wrote down a number of these earthquakes to share with you. But I'm going to leave that out and just simply tell you this: that the most quoted seismologist in the world is Dr. Don Anderson, who is the director of the Caltech Seismology Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Dr. Anderson warned that there is concrete evidence that the earth may soon suffer a number of cataclysmic earthquakes. And he points out that a number of major earthquakes—are you listening?—occur when the daily rotation of the world slows down and when the North Pole wobbles away from its normal position with respect to the heavens. And then, this is what Dr. Anderson said—and I quote: “The earth’s rotation has been slowing at about one hundred thousandth of a second daily for five years.” I’ve been noticing that, haven’t you? Now, listen. And he went on to say that “the North Pole has been wobbling as much as fifteen feet out of its normal position.” Now what he says is that this, among other things, will help trigger earthquakes. I was thinking of a sign that was posted out in a Palm Springs, California, classroom that said this—this was in a public school): “In event of an earthquake, the Supreme Court ruling against prayers in school will be temporarily suspended.” Amen?

Now, what does Haggai say? Haggai says that God is going to shake it all. Hebrews says, “Amen.” God is going to shake everything that can be shaken so that that which cannot be shaken will remain. There’s a lot of shaking going on. And, friend, you’d better find a firm place to stand. And there’s no firm place except Jesus Christ, the solid rock.

II. He Is Lord of the Professional World

I just want to bring things into focus again and tell you that, according to Haggai, our Lord is the Lord, the Almighty God, of the physical world. Secondly, He is the Almighty God of your professional world. You see, not only does our Lord take care of the physical universe; He takes care of the finances. Now He might take care of them in a way that you don’t like. You say, “Now, Lord, if you’re the Lord of the universe, everything’s going to run smooth.” He says, “No, I’m the Lord. I’m going to shake it all up.” You say, “Well, Lord, you’re Lord of the professional world, and my finances are going to be just fine.”

Well, let’s read and see. Haggai chapter 1, and I begin here in verse 3: “*Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?*”—talking about the house of God. “*Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts;*”—that is, the Lord Almighty—“*Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm;*”—now, watch this and see if you can say you think you recognize this—“*and he that earneth wages*

earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.” (Haggai 1:3–6)

Now, what is God saying? God is saying that “because of the way that you are living, I have seen to it that as a nation you have come into economic problems.” Now the Jews had been carried away captive, and by the grace of God they had been brought back and God had blessed them. But they had forgotten the Lord God that had blessed them; and because they had forgotten the Lord God that had blessed them, God had to send financial problems.

First of all, He brought in inflation. Verse 6 is inflation: “*Ye have sown much, and bring in little.*” (Haggai 1:6) That’s inflation. And then, on top of inflation, He brought depression. Look, if you will, in chapter 1 and verse 9: “*Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it.*” (Haggai 1:9) Now that’s what God did. God put a blight on their income, on their professional life. Look in chapter 2 and verse 16: “*Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.*” And then, look in verse 17: “*I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.*” (Haggai 2:16–17) Now they were experts at working hard, at cultivating their field, but yet the harvest was small and they were sinking deeper and deeper into economic difficulties as a nation. And why? “Because,” God says, “they would not turn to me.” Look again—chapter 2, verse 17: “*I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.*”

Now the same thing has happened to America. America is one of the greatest nations on the face of this earth, perhaps the greatest nation that has ever existed. And God has blessed us with unparalleled prosperity. What have we done with that prosperity? We’re just like the people in the book of Haggai. We have been selfish. We’ve spent it on ourselves. We’ve lived in ceiled houses, and God’s house would lie waste. That is, we’ve been selfish and spent it on ourselves and not on the work of God. And now God has had to send economic problems to America, and America is economically in real trouble.

Now I thank God for Ronald Reagan, and I personally think that Ronald Reagan is one of the greatest presidents that we’ve ever known as a people. But Ronald Reagan is not going to get us out of trouble. And whoever is elected after him is not going to get us out of trouble. Folks, have you ever thought about what our national debt is? I meant to bring something, and I don’t have it with me; but it describes what a trillion dollars is. Folks, we are in a royal mess as a nation, and we’re just shoving it back a little further and a little further. But economically we’re in trouble. And I’ll tell you why we’re in trouble. You know who caused it? God—God! You see, He’s the Lord of the physical

universe, and He's going to shake it. And He's the Lord of the financial world, the professional world, and He's blown upon that; He's blasting that.

You see, God blessed America, and America couldn't stand blessings. And so God is going to have to take it away. We have been cursed with blessing, and so God's going to bless us with cursing. We're going to come into greater and greater difficulty. But if we'll repent and get right with God, God "takes pleasure in the prosperity of his servants." (Psalms 35:27) The Bible says here that God is the One who controls the harvest. The reason that they worked so hard and got so little is that God just didn't bless it.

I was thinking about that story in the New Testament where the disciples said to Jesus, "Jesus, we've toiled all night and have taken nothing." (Luke 5:5) You know, those fish were out there in the sea, and the fishermen were fishing, and God had a control center in the brain of every one of those fish, and when they'd head toward the net, God would say, "Turn right, turn left," and those fish would just go down those nets. God did that. And when the right time came, the Lord said, "Turn this way," and they turned right into those nets, and the nets broke.

Now, dear friend, what I'm trying to say is the same God that later brought the fish into the net is the God that Haggai talked about here. He's the Lord of the harvest. And so I don't know what's going to happen in the financial world—I really don't; but I know that God's in control. He's the Lord of the physical world. He's the Lord of the financial world. He's the Lord of the professional world.

III. He Is Lord of the Political World

Now, let me say one last thing: He is also the Lord of the political world. I want you to look again in chapter 2 and verse 6: *"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;"*—now, watch this—*"and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts."* (Haggai 2:6–9)

Well now, that didn't look very likely that God would do that, that God would help them to rebuild the temple. Now, remember, they had been carried away captive in the year 587 by Nebuchadnezzar. They had been carried captive to Babylon. And then they got to come back. But they didn't have anything to rebuild the temple that had been destroyed. But there was a king that allowed them to come back. He was the king of Persia, and his name was Cyrus. And Cyrus, the king of Persia, gave to the Jews everything that they would need to rebuild their house. He gave them the cedar wood.

He provided the labor, the expenses. He gave them five thousand golden and silver vessels to be used in the temple.

You say, "Cyrus must have been a wonderful, godly man." No, he was a pagan. Ezra tells about Cyrus in Ezra chapter 1 and verse 1: *"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah."* (Ezra 1:1–2) Now that's a strange thing. Here's a pagan king; his name is Cyrus. He has no reason to do this except that God put it in his heart. And God caused this unlikely thing to come to pass.

Now I only used that as an example to show you that the Bible says in Proverbs chapter 21 and verse 1 that *"the king's heart is in the hands of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."* (Proverbs 21:1) Now, what does all of this tell me? It tells me, friend, that He is the Lord God Almighty and He can move the politicians of this world however He wants to move them. And He took a pagan king like Cyrus and fulfilled His will through Cyrus.

Conclusion

Now in the midst of all of trouble, my beloved brothers and sisters, remember He's the Lord of the heavens, He's the Lord of the harvest, and He is the Lord of history. He is the Lord of the physical universe. He is the Lord of the professional world. He is the Lord of the political world.

I don't know who is going to be elected president this year. I don't know what's going to happen to Gaddafi. I don't know what's going to happen to the Ayatollah. I don't know what's going to happen in Korea. I don't know what's going to happen in Russia. I don't know about the treaty that was recently signed, INF. I don't know about a lot of those things. But I tell you, there is one thing I know: *"The desire of all nations shall come."* (Haggai 2:7) I know that. I know that I know that I know that I know that *"the kingdoms of this world [will] become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ."* (Revelation 11:15)

I mean, folks, He's got this world in His hand. J. B. Phillips wrote a book called *Your God Is Too Small*. And it is time for God's people to understand what God is saying here in the book of Haggai: that God is in control. I don't care what happens. Jimmy Swaggart can go down. You can have difficulty with PTL. Some politicians may go off and do this thing and do that. We may lose an election. We may lose a war. We may lose our lives. But, my dear friend, He cannot fail; He must prevail. And it's time that we

glance at our problems and gaze upon our God. And may God help us to ask this question: How big is God? He's big enough to rule this mighty universe, yet small enough to live within my heart. Praise His name!

How Big Is God?

By Adrian Rogers

Date Preached: November 23, 1980

Main Scripture Text: Haggai 1:3–6, 2:6–9

*“And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come:
and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.”*

HAGGAI 2:7

Outline

Introduction

- I. He Is the Lord of the Heavens
 - A. He Created the Material Universe
 - B. He Controls the Material Universe
 - C. He Consummates the Material Universe
- II. He Is the Lord of the Harvest
- III. He Is the Lord of History

Conclusion

- A. There Can Be No Rival
- B. There Can Be No Rebuttal
- C. There Can Be No Refusal

Introduction

I want you to notice with me Haggai chapter 1 and verse 5: *“Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.”* (Haggai 1:5) I want to talk to you today on this subject: “How Big is God?” I heard Dr. John Blanchard speak from the book of Haggai, and he moved my heart. And I want to speak from this same book, because I learned from him some wonderful truths that I want to try to share with you as we think about the fact, how big is God?

We serve a great God, amen? When I ask the question, how big is God, don't you think for one little moment that I'm going to try to answer that question, because I can't answer that question. The question is unanswerable, how big is God, because God is immeasurable; God is infinite; God is limitless. When we speak of God's peace, we speak of “the peace of God that passes understanding.” (Philippians 4:7) When we speak of the love of God, the Bible says, “The love of God is past knowing.” (Ephesians 3:19) And Paul just said there in Romans chapter 11 and verse 33, *“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”* (Romans 11:33) So I want to tell you on the outset,

friend, you will never fathom God, but you can find God. You can never fathom God because of His greatness, but you can find God because of His grace. And I thank God that we have a God who is revealed to us in the Word of God in certain ways.

And one of the most wonderful ways that He's revealed to us is by the special name that He has given to Himself, and one of those names I've just read to you from the Word of God in Haggai chapter 1 and verse 5: "*Now therefore thus saith*"—are you ready for this name of God?—"the LORD of hosts"—"the LORD of hosts." (Haggai 1:5) Now this is translated from this phrase: "the Lord of Sabaoth." And what does that mean? Or even, really, what does "the LORD of hosts" mean? It literally means "the Lord Almighty," and the New International Version translates this "the Lord Almighty." And it speaks of the greatness of God. It speaks of the bigness of God. It speaks of the grandeur of God. He is the Lord Sabaoth. And when we think of the Lord of hosts, or the Lord Sabaoth, we're thinking of His mighty power.

Now we've sung about the Lord Sabaoth sometimes, and perhaps we've just sung right over that. Do you remember that line from "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" that Martin Luther wrote? And he said,

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.*

—MARTIN LUTHER

Amen. Why? Because He is the Lord Sabaoth. That's what Martin Luther understood.

And little David understood that when he went against Goliath. Do you remember that Goliath was standing out there, over nine feet tall in his bronze armor, and little David, the shepherd boy, comes against Goliath with five smooth stones and a sling? And David looks at Goliath and says, "You come to me with a sword and a spear and a shield, and I come to you in the name of"—and he uses this same name—"the name of the Lord of hosts," the Lord Sabaoth. (1 Samuel 17:45) He had a conception of God that I want us to have. Do you know why everybody else was afraid of Goliath that day? They were looking at Goliath and thinking, "Look how much bigger he is than we are." But David looked at him and said, "Look how much smaller he is than God is," amen? You see, David knew the Lord Sabaoth, and he knew that He was a great God. Other people were saying, "Goliath is too big to hit." David was saying, "He's too big to miss, if God is on my side"—and he went forth in the power of the Lord of hosts.

Now Haggai tells us three things about the Lord Sabaoth. He tells us three things about the Lord of hosts. He tells us three things about the Lord God Almighty—many more than three, but three that I want us to think about today. Haggai points out,

number one, that He is the Lord of the heavens; number two, He is the Lord of the harvest; number three, He is the Lord of history. I want to just see those things.

I. He Is the Lord of the Heavens

First of all, turn to chapter 2 and verse 6, and again we see this phrase *“the LORD of hosts.”* And I want you to notice here that He is the Lord of the heavens: *“For thus saith the LORD of hosts...”*—and incidentally, the heavens are called “the starry host”—*“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.”* (Haggai 2:6) And then, look, if you will, in verse 21: *“Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth.”* (Haggai 2:21) God is the Lord of the heavens. He is the Lord of the earth. He is the Lord of the sea. And He is the Lord of the material universe. Why?

A. He Created the Material Universe

Because He created it. Can you imagine what a modern writer would do if he tried to describe the creation of the heavens and the earth? Even if he believed in God, what an avalanche of adjectives he would pour out! What double-jointed and obtuse terms he would use to describe the creation of the earth! Aren't you glad that God says it surely, sweetly, sublimely, and simply: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”?* (Genesis 1:1) Or we read it in Psalm 33, verse 6: *“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made.”* (Psalm 33:6) God spoke, and it was so. How beautiful that is! God created the material universe.

B. He Controls the Material Universe

And not only did God create the material universe; God therefore controls the material universe. I've been interested in reading about Voyager. The space probe has gone out now and has just flown past Saturn, and we've discovered some things that we didn't know about Saturn. As a matter of fact, it always tickles me as they're talking about trying to discover the mystery of the creation of the universe. And they said, “Well, we've got to go back to the laboratory now. A lot of things we thought we knew, we didn't know.” Well, you can keep on thinking, friend, and you'll never know until you come to what God says: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1) God just spoke, and it was so.

And, you know, everybody is so amazed at this little old tiny solar system that we have. It has just nine planets in it. There's Mercury and Venus and Earth and Mars and Jupiter and Saturn and Uranus and Neptune and Pluto. And these have some twenty-eight moons, and then some little planetoids, you know, just flying around. But, friend, this is one little tiny corner. This is just the solar system. These are just those planets that orbit around our particular sun, which is ninety-three million miles away. But that's

just a speck in God's great universe, and this earth is just a speck in our solar system.

Did you know that we're a very small planet compared to some of the planets in our solar system? Did you know that Jupiter, for example, is thirteen hundred times bigger than the earth? And that's just in our little solar system. We're quite small; we're just a small part of this solar system. Then you look out there to the Milky Way and all of these myriads and billions of stars in the Milky Way, in our galaxy, and some of those stars are so big that they are 300 million miles across—300 million miles from one side to the other. It's only ninety-three million miles from here to the sun. Three hundred million miles—just one star! And, oh, there are so many of them!

One scientist, trying to help us to understand just how great this universe is, said, "There are more known suns in our universe than there are grains of sand on all the seashores of all the earth"—grains of sand on all the earth and all the seashores. How many grains of sand would there be, say, in a city block down there in West Palm Beach where I was born? Just start counting: one, two, three. Listen, what a great God! And this is just our galaxy. There's another galaxy that we can see with the naked eye: Andromeda. And it's just a faint speck out there. Do you know how far away it is? One and a half million light years away! Now, how far is a light year? A light year is how far light travels in a year at 186,000 miles a second. How fast is that? If you were to light a candle and that light would go around the world, by the time you lit it, it would come back around the world before you could blow it out. That's how fast light travels: 186,000 miles a second. And from that galaxy it has been traveling a million and a half years at that speed. And what you see is the light that left there a million and a half years ago.

Unless God created it—already in progress—you see? And God created it already in progress, but what I'm just simply saying to you is how vast, how wide, how great the domain! What a great, great God! And God runs all of this. Just like moving pieces on a celestial checkerboard, God is in control of it all. But then, when you leave the vastness of God and come down to the small things, *"the very hairs of your head are...numbered."* (Matthew 10:30; Luke 12:7) Not a sparrow falls but what He knows it, (Matthew 10:29) and not a blade of grass moves without His permission. God just runs it all. He created the universe, and He controls the universe.

C. He Consummates the Material Universe

And what Haggai tells us is that He is going to consummate the universe. Look again in chapter 2, verse 6: *"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."* (Haggai 2:6) There's coming a shakedown, friend. This stable universe, these things that we depend upon, these things that we're used to always moving in certain orders, all of these things that we rest upon, dear friend, they're going to be shaken. This God, who stretched them out

like a curtain, is one day going to roll them up like a scroll. Even the stars in their mighty courses are going to be shaken, and this earth and the works that are therein are going to be burned up. (2 Peter 3:10) The Bible says, “*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be.*” (2 Peter 3:11) God is saying, friend, there’s a shaking coming—a great shaking.

And why is that shaking coming? Well, in Hebrews chapter 12, this same scripture’s quoted, and God tells why the shakedown is coming. God says, “I’m going to shake everything that can be shaken so that those things that can’t be shaken will remain.” (Hebrews 12:26–27) Do you understand what He is saying? These things that you are counting on, your health—that can be shaken. Your bank account—that can be shaken. Your national citizenship—that can be shaken. Have you got something that can’t be shaken? Listen. *Everything that’s not nailed down with a nail of grace and the hammer of God’s Word is going to be shaken out of place by His judgment.* Did you know that? Everything that God has not nailed down—everything that can be shaken—is going to be shaken so that those things that cannot be shaken will remain. You read it in chapter 12, beginning in verse 26, when you get home.

Now one of the ways that God is going to shake this earth is through earthquakes. Did you know He’s already started? It’s a part of a shakedown. You know, Jesus said in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew that earthquakes are signs of even greater things that are going to come upon the earth. (Matthew 24:7, 21) I want to read to you Matthew chapter 24, beginning in verse 6: “*And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars:*”—have you heard any? okay—“*see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation,*”—Iraq is going to rise against Iran—“*and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences,*”—but now, notice this—“*and earthquakes, in divers places*” (Matthew 24:6–7)—in various places all over the earth. Old Mother Earth is going to be quivering and pulsating. There are going to be “*earthquakes in divers places.*”

And Jesus said all of these “*are the beginnings of sorrows.*” (Mark 13:8) And the word for “sorrows” here is the word for travail, like the birth pains that a woman has when she’s about to bring forth a child. You know, I remember Joyce turning over to me and saying, “Adrian, I think I feel something”—and it was just that first pain, and then another, and then another. And they get closer together, and they get more severe. And as those birth pains get closer together, and as they get more severe, then you know that something is about to come forth. Now this is the terminology, and this is the figure that Jesus used. And He said that earthquakes are the birth pains of Mother Earth. Dear friend, we’re seeing those pains now get more and more severe. God’s getting ready to shake this world.

I did some research about earthquakes here recently and I found out that we're living in an earthquake age like no other generation has ever lived in. On July 28, 1976, all of greater Peking and China was shaken with a massive, devastating earthquake. And the *Hong Kong View*, which is a newspaper published in Hong Kong, estimated the death toll in Peking as—are you ready for this?—one million people lost their lives in that earthquake. And it went on to give the Chinese name for an earthquake. Here are the facts: 1557—almost 850,000 people lost their lives; 1976—almost 250,000 lost their lives. Do you know what the Chinese name for an earthquake means? “Heaven tumbles, earth cracks.” And this newspaper went on to say that when an earthquake comes, it's a sign of the fall of a dynasty. In four weeks, Mao Zedong was dead, this man who had been worshipped by literally millions and even billions of Chinese. He had been called “Lord Messiah” and “The Everlasting Sun”—but he was dead. And God had shaken the world with a mighty earthquake.

You're going to find out that earthquakes are God's exclamation points. When God wants to get our attention, He sends an earthquake. You're going to find out also that earthquakes are God's alarm clock. When God wants to wake us up, He jolts us awake. And you're going to also find out that earthquakes are God's *amens*. When He says, “Pay attention to that,” He gives us an earthquake. You study the history of what God has done in the world, and every great thing God has done, He's accompanied it with an earthquake. When he gave the Ten Commandments, there was an earthquake. When Jesus died upon the cross, there was an earthquake. When Jesus arose, there was an earthquake. On the Day of Pentecost, there was an earthquake. The Bible says when He destroys Russia and the Middle East, there's going to be “*a great shaking in the land*” (Ezekiel 38:19)—an earthquake. The Bible teaches that when His feet touch the Mount of Olives, there's going to be an earthquake, and the Mount of Olives is going to split in two. (Zechariah 14:4) You're going to find out that earthquakes are God's *amens*. Earthquakes are God's alarm clock. Earthquakes are God's way of saying, “Pay attention.” And God says, “The time is coming: I'm going to shake the heavens and the earth, and I'm going to shake it so badly, so greatly, that everything that can be shaken will be shaken, so that those things that cannot be shaken will remain.”

I continue to read. I found out in the leading half of 1976 there was a dreadful earthquake that struck Guatemala. On February 4, 1976, three o'clock a.m., Guatemala experienced a devastating earthquake. And we had a little earthquake here, you remember, a few years ago, and one or two little aftershocks. They had eight hundred aftershocks. How would you like to live through eight hundred aftershocks? It left twenty-two thousand injured; fifty thousand were left homeless. And then, in May 1976, a quake killing a thousand people rocked Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria, West Germany, Czechoslovakia and Belgium. And then again, another eight times as powerful struck

there in China near the Burma border and in Russia. They didn't release the number of dead that died in that. And then, shortly after that, in Vancouver, another earthquake—the worst in fifty-four years—struck there. And then, on June 28, 1976, Indonesia was hit by an earthquake that killed an estimated nine thousand people. And then, in August, the Philippines lost eight thousand in an earthquake. And all total in just that one year, 1976, there were over a million measurable earthquakes.

And this man out here at Caltech in the seismological laboratory out there who they quoted the most, Dr. Don Anderson, said we can look for more earthquakes—and they're sure to come—of devastating proportions, cataclysmic proportions. And he says there are two things that cause it. He says, number one, there is a slowing down of the rotation of the earth, and he says the earth has been slowing down. It has been slowing down at this rate: one-thousandth of a second every day. I haven't noticed it, have you? One-thousandth of a second—that is how perfectly balanced this world is—one thousandth of a second, the rotation of the earth. And then he said there is something else that they noticed, and that is the wobble from the North Pole to the South Pole. And they have noticed now that the greater the wobble, the greater the earthquakes, the more frequent the earthquakes. And the North Pole and the South Pole are wobbling as much as fifteen feet. And then there are these scientists who tell us that the planets are lining up in a particular way that they are going to call the "Jupiter effect" that is going to change the way things happen here upon the earth. And this old quivering, pulsating mass of molten rock that we call Mother Earth is going to shake herself. And they said this phenomenon will begin perhaps in 1980. And we see Mount St. Helens. We see another volcano not long ago in Alaska, and it was but just a few weeks ago God sent quite a jolt out there to the San Francisco area.

God says, "Now, listen. I'm going to shake this thing. There is a shakedown coming." There were a 137 major earthquakes recorded in the fourteenth century, 174 major earthquakes recorded in the fifteenth century, 253 in the sixteenth century, and so on, until we get to this century. And there have been 2,250 major earthquakes in this century. He's the Lord of the heavens. He's the One who creates it. He's the One who controls it. And He's the One who consummates it. He says, "I'm going to shake it. I'm going to shake it so that everything that cannot be shaken will remain."

II. He Is the Lord of the Harvest

But, secondly, I want you to notice not only is He the Lord of the heavens, but He is also the Lord of the harvest. Go back now, if you will, to chapter 1, and begin reading in verse 3—Haggai chapter 1, verse 3: "*Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house*"—that is, the temple—"*lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts;*

Consider your ways.” And then he talks of the harvest. He said, *“Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and...”*—you can say *amen* to this—*“and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.”* (Haggai 1:3–6) Is that where you feel you’ve been putting yours? You can identify with that. Yeah, inflation is not new. *“He that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.”*

Now what had happened to these people was this: that God had blessed therein. They were in a fix. They’d been carried away captive into Babylon, and they cried out to God and said, “God, have mercy! God, throw off the yoke of the oppressor!” And God threw off the yoke of the oppressor, and God brought them into their land. And God gave them the things that they needed. And God gave them a commission, and God gave them a plan, and God said, “Now, go to work for me.” But rather than going to work for God, they went to work for themselves. They lived for self and self alone, and they had forgotten the Word of God. And rather than being humbly grateful, they were grumbly hateful. And they did not serve the Lord God. And God says, “All right, consider your ways. You sow much, but you bring in little.” And there was economic disaster.

Verse 6—we’ve already mentioned there was inflation. You earn wages to put it into a bag with holes. But not only was there inflation; there was a slow down in productivity, and the gross national product was way down. Look, if you will, in verse 9: *“Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it.”* (Haggai 1:9) That is, God said, “You were expecting a lot, and you got a little. And even what you brought home, I saw to it that it didn’t last. I blew upon it; I didn’t want it to last.” And look in verse 10: *“Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.”* (Haggai 1:10) God says, “I’m going to put blight on the harvest.”

Now, why did God do this? Why did God say, “I’m going to hold back the rain”? Why did God say, “When you get your money, it’s going to be put into a bag with holes”? Why is there recession, depression, and a slowdown in the national productivity? And why were there unfathomable weather patterns that caused drought? God did it—God did it! No one else did it. The God of love was behind it all. Look, if you will, in chapter 1, verse 11. God says, *“And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth.”* (Haggai 1:11) God says, “I was the One who said it. I said, ‘Drought, come over here.’” And then I want you to turn over, if you would, to chapter 2, verse 17, and get the same idea. God says, *“I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.”* (Haggai 2:17)

Now, is there a modern parallel? Because the book of Haggai isn’t what God has

said; it is what God is saying. He may be a minor prophet, but his message isn't minor. What is wrong with America? Among other things, we just can't seem to produce anything. It seems that this once prosperous land has gone sour, and we cannot believe it. Record drought: think what happened this past year in Arkansas, in these places down in Texas. Then, in another place, record rain; and in another place, record cold; and in another place, record heat. You just go back and look at the number of records that have fallen in Memphis this year. I'm talking about weather records that have fallen. What's happening? Why all of these strange weather patterns? Well, I'll tell you why it happened in Haggai's day: God did it. And God did it to a people that had forgotten Him. God did it to a people that had been singly blessed of God. And yet they turned their back on God, and God said to them, "I'll see to it that you won't prosper—I'll see to it."

You know, we talk about the miracles in the New Testament. One of the greatest miracles is the night that Peter and the disciples didn't catch any fish. Do you remember after the resurrection of Jesus, and here the Lord had commissioned him to do certain things, and Peter said, "I'm going fishing"? The rest of the guys said, "I'm going with you," and they got out there on the Sea of Galilee. These are professional fishermen with boats and nets; they've got all of the accouterments it takes to catch fish. Finally, Jesus calls to them from the shore and He says, "Hey, have you caught anything?" Wouldn't that irritate you when you've been fishing? People ask you that question: "Have you caught anything?" Do you know what Peter said? Listen. He said, "We have fished"—"*we have toiled*." (Luke 5:5) That's the word he used—not *fished*, but *toiled*. I mean, "We have worked at it all night." And he didn't say, "We've caught a few"; he said, "We haven't caught anything."

Now, can you imagine fishermen, professional fishermen, with nets in a place like the Sea of Galilee who have fished all night and have not caught one sardine? "We have fished all night and have caught nothing." Why? Because God saw to it they weren't going to catch anything. Here, those little fish swimming under the sea, and here's a fish headed right for Peter's net. The Lord says, "Turn right"—*beep, beep*—"turn left"—*beep, beep*—and here they are. God is just putting Himself in the brain of these little fish; and like some of the guided missiles, they're going right, they're going left. And I'll tell you, I know that God was doing that, because later on the Lord gave them commands, and they started working under His command and under His Word. And there are so many fish that got in that net that they couldn't even get it to shore without the nets breaking. And, friend, here's the law of the harvest, and there was a double miracle: not only the miracle of the fish that did get in the net, but there was the miracle of the fish that didn't get into the net.

Do you want me to tell you what's happening with America's gross national product, and our inflation, and our drought, and all of these things? That's a miracle in a negative

sense—that God is just seeing to it that we as a nation are being cursed. You see, Americans can't handle blessings. Do you know what happens to Americans when they stop getting blessed? They get away from God; they forget God. *America has been cursed with blessings, and so God is getting ready to bless us with cursings*—God is getting ready to bless us with cursings. God is getting ready to do some things for us so that we will come back to Him. And we will do what the Lord of Sabaoth says that we ought to do—is to consider.

If you think, Mr. Stock Market, that Ronald Reagan is going to be the end of America's problems, you're wrong. There's no man who is the cure to America's problems. America has got to repent and get right with God—repent and get right with God. *“Thus saith the LORD of hosts;”*—to a selfish nation, a nation that has been blessed—*“Consider your ways.”* (Haggai 1:7) He is the Lord of the harvest. And, oh, how we need to come to Him and just yield our hearts and lives to Him!

III. He Is the Lord of History

Now, let me say thirdly, not only is He the Lord of the heavens and He's going to shake everything, and not only is He the Lord of the harvest, He's the One who causes us to prosper or the One who causes us not to prosper; but, thirdly, He's the Lord of history: He's got everything under His control.

How big is God? We serve a big God. He is the Lord Almighty. He is the Lord Sabaoth. He is the Lord of history. Continue to read here in Haggai chapter 2, verse 6: *“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; and”*—verse 7—*“I will shake all nations,”*—“I'm going to shake all nations”—*“and the desire of all nations shall come.”*—who is the desire of all nations? It literally means “the desired of all nations.” And some feel that this is a prophecy concerning the Lord Jesus, but I'm not quite so certain as if he's not saying here that “the thing that all nations desire is going to come to my house”—*“and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.”* (Haggai 2:6–8) That is, God says, “I have a plan; and whether the nations want to cooperate or not, my plan is going to be fulfilled. My house is going to be built, and the desired thing of all nations is going to come, because the silver is mine and the gold is mine.”

I want us to learn something right here, dear friend. God's work is never stopped for a lack of resources—never! No Christian enterprise, whether it be Bold Mission Thrust or Bellevue Baptist Church or anything else, is ever stopped because of the lack of resources. It may be stopped because of the lack of faith with God's people, a lack of sacrifice, but never a lack of resources. The same God that took a little lad's lunch and fed five thousand is still on the throne, amen? *“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine.”*

It all belongs to God, and God will give it to His people when His people get right with Him and when His people trust Him. But you see, dear friend, God says, “These things are mine.” They belong to Him. There’s no bankruptcy in heaven. There’s no recession in heaven. There’s no depression in heaven. There’s no drought in heaven. And God is the God of history, and God says, “I’m going to shake the nations.” God’s having His way.

You know, sometimes we get the idea that God doesn’t know what’s going on or things are getting out of control and God’s up there in heaven walking up and down saying, “What am I going to do? What am I’m going to do?” *There’s no panic in heaven, only plans. The UN may meet in emergency session, but the Holy Trinity has yet to meet in an emergency session.* You mark that down: God knows what He’s doing, and this world is His world. And the answer to this world does not lie in the Kremlin or in the Knesset. The answer to this world does not lie in the OPEC nations or in all of the *Khomaniacs* put together. And it is not in Washington, and it is not in London.

God is God, and our God is marching on. And we suffer the consequences of our sins. But I want to tell you that God is a great God. He’s the Lord of the heavens. He’s a great God. He’s the Lord of the harvest. He’s a great God. He is the Lord of history, and He’s going to enthrone His Son, the Lord Jesus, upon His holy hill of Zion. And in spite of the rantings and the ravings and the machinations of wicked, evil men, you read the Second Psalm: “*Why do the heathen rage, and the [kings of this earth] imagine a vain thing?*” (Psalms 2:1) And they say, “Let us get rid of this God, and let us get rid of His Son.” But God says, “*Yet have I set my [Son] upon my holy hill of Zion*” (Psalms 2:6)—“yet have I done it.”

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys are run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore
'Til moons shall wax and wane no more.*

—ISAAC WATTS

Jesus is the answer, and verse 9 tells us “I will give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Haggai 2:9) There’s coming a golden age, because God is the God of history. It’s under His hand and in His control.

Conclusion

Now, what should our response be to that? If He is the Lord Sabaoth, if He is the Lord of hosts, if He is the Lord Almighty, what should our response be?

A. There Can Be No Rival

May I just mention, number one, there can be no rival. He’s God, and He’s the only

God: "I'll have no other God's before me." (Exodus 20:3)

B. There Can Be No Rebuttal

Number two: There can be no rebuttal. Don't argue with Him. "*Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*" (John 2:5)

C. There Can Be No Refusal

Number three: There can be no refusal. Don't refuse Him. He's God. There's no rival. There's no rebuttal. There's no refusal. He's God! He's God! He is God! He's the great God.

But now here's the good part: He loves you, and sent His Son to die for you. That God did. How big is God? He's big enough to rule the mighty universe and small enough to live within my heart. What a God we serve! And this God sent His Son Jesus into world to die upon the cross that you through faith in His name might have the forgiveness of your sins and life everlasting.