

## Haggai 2:8-15 +21-23

This passage gives another link to the Tabernacle materials of Exodus 25-26. Just as the Exodus passage talks about building the Tabernacle, Haggai talks about rebuilding the Temple.

**Haggai 2:8-9** - "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."

But unlike the free-will offering of the people described in **Exodus 25**,

**Haggai 2:14** - "...every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean."

**Haggai 2:15** - "And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD:"

At this point the haftarah skips down to verses 21-23, which describe God's final victory over his enemies, and sees Zerubbabel as a kind of Messiah figure.

**Haggai 2:21-23** - "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth; And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts."

Zerubbabel

Who was Zerubbabel? In the Davidic royal lineage, the grandson of Jehoiachin, penultimate king of Judah, he was appointed governor of Judah by the Persians. He is always associated with the high priest who returned with him, Joshua (Jeshua) son of Jozadak (Jehozadak). Together, these two men led the first wave of Jewish returnees from exile and began to rebuild the Temple.

Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest form an anointed pair in a vision of Zechariah, symbolizing Christ as priest and king. A kingly crown was placed on the head of Joshua the priest, then it was put aside as an ornament for the future temple.

**Zechariah 6:13** - "Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest; And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is Branch. From his place he will branch out and he shall build the temple of the Lord. Yes, he shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory and shall sit and rule on his throne. So he shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

The Davidic line from Jeconiah had been cursed by Jeremiah, saying that no descendant of "Coniah" would ever sit on the throne again (**Jeremiah 22:30**). Zerubbabel was of the main Davidic line through Solomon and Jeconiah.

Rashi - In contrast to what was decreed upon his father Jeconiah (Jer. 22: 24): "As I live, says the Lord, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, be a signet on My right hand, from there I will remove you." [Jeremiah further] states there (ibid. 22: 30): "Inscribe this man childless." We learn that his repentance availed [Jeconiah], and Zerubbabel was born to him, and he was made as a signet.

Also

**Haggai 2:18** talks about the Temple foundations being laid on the 24th of Chislew near Hanukkah when Christ was likely conceived.