



Sermon Title: Unshakable Kingdom

Main Point: Worship is the joyful fruit of genuine gratitude, rooted in the unshakeable kingdom we have received in Christ.

Hebrews 12:18-22

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to *Mount Zion* and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering...

But because sin became rampant among the people and because divine judgment was inevitable, even on Zion (Lamentations 2:15), it became more and more obvious, especially to the prophets, that Zion, the city of David, the earthly Jerusalem, was not the ideal city. They began to see more clearly that this Zion pointed forward to a future Zion and upward to a heavenly Zion. Or to put it another way, if imperfect Zion is the place of God's presence on the earth, then there must be a perfect Zion where God dwells in heaven (cf. Acts 7:48f.). And if imperfect Zion is the place of God's presence on the earth now, then all the promises of complete and perfect reign on the earth must mean that there will someday be a new and ideal Zion on the earth where God rules over all the nations. In other words the old Jerusalem points upward to a heavenly Zion, and forward to a future Zion. - John Piper

Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly[a] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

He speaks as if the blood itself were both witness and prosecutor, because God's own knowledge testified against him and God's own justice demanded satisfaction....First, It speaks to God in behalf of sinners; it pleads not for vengeance, as the blood of Abel did on him who shed it, but for mercy. Secondly, To sinners, in the name of God. It speaks pardon to their sins, peace to their souls; and bespeaks their strictest obedience and highest love and thankfulness.
- Matthew Henry

Hebrews 12:25-27

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

4 Considerations:

1. Folly of ignoring the previous judgment
2. Futility of dismissing the present warning
3. Failure to escape future judgment
4. Forfeiture of the future blessing

Isaiah 1:18-20

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient,

you shall eat the good of the land;

but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

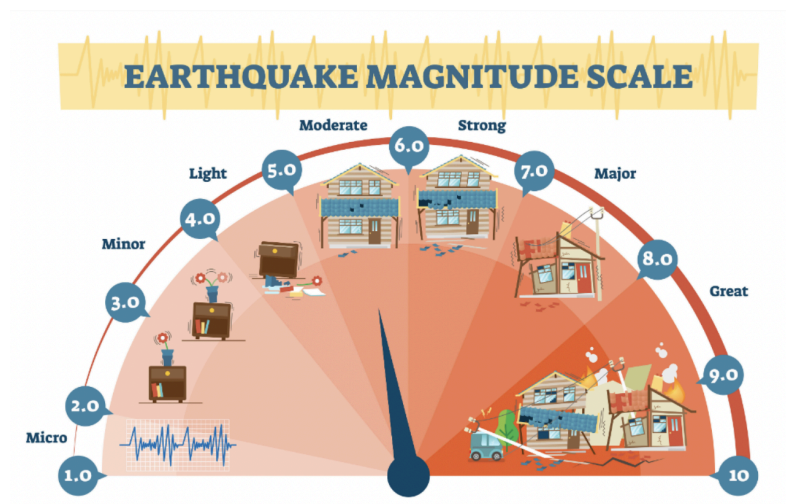
God's love not only points out the *danger* of our *rebellion*, but the *delight* to be enjoyed in our *repentance*.

Genesis 4:5b-7

So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

Hebrews 12:26-27

At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.



Haggai 2:6-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former,

says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”

God promises to shake all nations (as well as “the heavens and the Earth” v.6). The result of this shaking will be that the treasures of all nations will be yielded by the nations to adorn the temple; but the result will also be more than this, for the Lord will fill his house with Glory – that is, with his own presence. The focus of Haggai’s oracle in its context is specifically on the immediate fulfillment of this prophecy. In addition, from a NT vantage point, many would see a foreshadowing of events unfolding in the incarnation of Christ and ultimately in his second coming at the end of the age (e.g., when Jesus spoke of his body as “this temple” in John chapter 2:20-21; and when the Book of Revelation speaks of the day when the whole city of Jerusalem will be filled with the presence of God, “for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb...and the kings of the earth will bring their Glory into it,” Revelation 21:22, 24

2 Peter 3:5-8

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. -

Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Deuteronomy 4:24

For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

Things that can be shaken:	Things that cannot be shaken:
Physical Health	Glorified Body
Mind	Everlasting Life
Emotions	Fullness of Joy
Earthly Family	Christian Family
Job	Eternal Position
Bank Account	Treasures in Heaven
Possessions	Future Inheritance
Me	Jesus



Worship is the joyful fruit of genuine gratitude, rooted in the unshakeable kingdom we have received in Christ.

Help for our Hearts in Pursuing this Life of Worship:

5. Reading the Bible
6. Prayer

Fire is a frequently recurrent emblem of the Holy Spirit, both in the Old and New Testament. It is not the destructive, but the vitalising, glowing, transforming, energy of fire, which is expressed. The fervour of holy enthusiasm, the warmth of ardent love, the melting of hard hearts, the change of cold, damp material into its own ruddy likeness, are all set forth in this great symbol. John's water baptism was poor beside Messiah's immersion into that cleansing fire. Fire turns what it touches into kindred flame. The refiner's fire melts metal, and the scum carries away impurities. Water washes the surface, fire pierces to the center.....There are two fires, to one or other of which we must be delivered. Either we shall gladly accept the purging fire of the Spirit which burns sin out of us, or we shall have to meet the punitive fire which burns up us and our sins together. To be cleansed by the one or to be consumed by the other is the choice before each of us. - Alexander McLaren