

## Unshakable Mount Zion 2021-06-13

### Hebrews 12:18-29

*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."*

*27 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.*

*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, 29 for our God is a consuming fire*

Romanticize past when struggling w/trials, difficulties...life in 70's

- Jewish Christians tempted to go back to Judaism because of persecution/trials
  - We endure trials by thinking about who God is and His past/future actions.  
Hebrews 12:18-21

Events at Mt Sinai impressive/substantial proof of God's existence, majesty, holiness.

- Did not produce faith/obedience but caused Israelites to fear.
  - Spectacular events do not strengthen faith or produce endurance as much as trials.

Mt Sinai symbolized God dealing with men under Old Covenant of law.

- Law was good - same purposes as NOW: teach to fear God's holy and wrath, show our sinfulness deserving judge and need for mediator. Galatians 3:23-24, "Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves." - John Calvin

Sinai physical/earthly represents Old Covenant/law, separation from God, fear judgement to come

- Zion spiritual/heavenly represents New Covenant/grace, with God through Jesus Christ's blood, joy. Hebrews 12:22-24
  - Jesus' presence in heavenly Zion reason for joy/celebration.
  - Zion= heavenly Jerusalem. Represents place God will dwell among His people after Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

Must go to Sinai before go to Zion.

- Law, sin, judgment reveal our need for Gospel: grace, love, forgiveness.
  - No need for forgiveness without something to be forgiven of
  - gospel greatest privilege imaginable, to refuse is greatest sin imaginable!  
Hebrews 12:19, 25
- If those under old, inferior covenant incurred God's judgement for disobedience, how much more will we be judged if neglect God's provision in Jesus Christ?

- What happened at Sinai is nothing compared to what coming. (BTO you ain't seen nothing yet.)

At Sinai the earth shook; at final judgment, earth/heaven will shake! Hebrews 12:26-27, Matthew 24:7, Revelation 21:1-2

- God will wipe out entire universe, leaving only unshakeable, eternal Kingdom of God
  - Christians do not live in fear because Father's wrath was satisfied by Jesus' sacrifice.

Response to promise of unshakable Kingdom of God is joyful obedience/worship  
Hebrews 12:28-29, 2 Peter 3:10

- acceptable worship is grateful for Father's grace/mercy/unshakeable inheritance yet reverence and awe because of His holiness.
  - loving Father is also consuming fire.
- Obey not from fear but grateful for God's indescribable gift of Jesus Christ.
  - right living flows out of right knowing.
    - If know riches possess in Jesus, will not pursue fleeting world pleasure.
- Acceptable worship is balance of gratitude and respect/awe.
  - Heart understands majesty of God and how He has not dealt with us as we deserve.

To endure trials, think about who God is and His past and future actions.

- Your God is consuming fire and good beyond wildest imaginations.
- In past Father provided mediator, substitute, Savior, redeemer....Jesus Christ
- Future inheritance that is unshakable, eternal Kingdom of God and love of your Savior.

In these shaky times, be unshakable by keeping eyes on Jesus and continuing to run race in Holy Spirit power with gratitude and awe in your great God.