

An Unshakable Kingdom

"(v.18) Unlike your ancestors, you didn't come to Mount Sinai—all that volcanic blaze and *earthshaking* rumble—to hear God speak. (v.19) The earsplitting words and *soul-shaking* message terrified them and they begged him to stop.(v.20) When they heard the words—'If an animal touches the Mountain, it's as good as dead'—they were afraid to move. (v.21) Even Moses was terrified.

(v.22) No, that's not your experience at all. You've come to Mount Zion, the city where the living God resides. (v.23) The invisible Jerusalem is populated by throngs of festive angels and Christian citizens. (God's first born children.) It is the city where God is Judge, with judgments that make us just. (v.24) You've come to Jesus, who presents us with a new covenant, a fresh charter from God. He is the Mediator of this covenant. The murder of Jesus, unlike Abel's—a homicide that cried out for vengeance—became a proclamation of grace.

(v.25) So don't turn a deaf ear to these gracious words. If those who ignored earthly warnings didn't get away with it, what will happen to us if we turn our backs on heavenly warnings? (v.26) His voice that time shook the earth to its foundations; this time—he's told us this quite plainly—he'll also rock the heavens: 'One last *shaking*, from top to bottom, stem to stern.' (v.27) The phrase 'one last *shaking*' means a thorough housecleaning, getting rid of all the historical and religious junk so that the *unshakable* essentials stand clear and uncluttered.

(v.28) Do you see what we've got? ***An unshakable kingdom!*** And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. He's actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won't quit until it's all cleansed. (v.29) God himself is Fire!

Hebrews 12:18-29

The Message

HISTORICAL NOTE: What a contrast between the people's terrified approach to God at Mt. Sinai where the law was given (Ex.19:10-25) and their joyful approach at Mt. Zion. Not the literal Mt. Zion (Jerusalem—or its southeast portion), but the heavenly city of God and those who dwell there with him (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16; 13:14).

You're Unshakable

1- Your identity in Christ is unshakable!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he (she) is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."

II Corinthians 5:17-18

2- There is NO condemnation for you when you are in Christ!

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:1-2

3- Nothing separates you from God.

"Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way!

-not trouble,

-not hard times,

-not hatred,

-not hunger,

-not homelessness,

-not bullying threats,

-not backstabbing,

-not even the worst sins listed in Scripture. None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us.

I'm absolutely convinced that *nothing*

-*nothing* living or dead,

-angelic or demonic,

-today or tomorrow,

-high or low,

-thinkable or unthinkable,

absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us."

4- The splendor and permanence of your eternal home is unshakable!

"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. (God) says, 'I am making everything new!'—Revelation 21:4-5a