

Unshaken

Hebrews 12:25-29

Introduction

1. God built all things – **Hebrews 3:4; Acts 17:24**
 - a. All things are not permanent – **Hebrews 12:25-29** – shakable vs unshakable.
 - b. NOTE: (1) God creating does not mean it must last forever, (2) if something is temporary, shakable, corruptible, God must have intended it to be that way.
 2. God’s creation of all things placed in two categories, shakable/unshakable, temporary/eternal, comes with the presentation of choices. Choose the shakable or the unshakable.
 3. Now, the shakable is unavoidable, but those who opt into the unshakable will avoid the fate of the shakable in the end and stand firm with the unshakable.
- I. Things Which Are Being Shaken
- A. The Old Law
 - a. The context of Hebrews:
 - i. Addressing a people slouching toward apostasy – **Hebrews 2:1; 3:12**
 - ii. Specifically, turning back to an obsolete system which served its purpose, and away from what it pointed to – **Hebrews 8:13; 13:13** – a call to break free from that outdated system once for all.
 - b. Old Law is self-described as transitory:
 - i. **Hebrews 8:7-13** – place was sought for a second.
 1. Quoting **Jeremiah 31:31-34**
 2. **(v. 13)** – within the Old, the writer Jeremiah looks to **“A new covenant,”** and in writing so manifests the covenant under which he is writing is **“becoming obsolete and growing old [and] is ready to vanish away”** even as he abides under it.
 - ii. **Hebrews 12:26-28; Haggai 2:6-9** – Haggai’s prophecy as quoted by the Hebrew writer indicated the eventual cessation of the Jewish system which had its center of service in the physical temple.
 1. **(v. 26a)** – whose voice THEN shook the earth.
 - a. **Hebrews 12:18-21** – scene of Sinai.
 - b. **Exodus 19:18** – whole mountain quaked.
 2. **(v. 26b)** – quoting Haggai.
 - a. **Haggai 2:6-9** – the “latter” temple, in reference to the kingdom of prophecy, the church, would exceed in glory even the temple of Solomon.
 3. **(vv. 27-28)** – What is shaken **“Yet once more,”** is to be removed, so that what is unshakable may remain **(v. 28a)** – Messianic kingdom of prophecy.

- a. What is shaken – Old Jewish Economy – had to be removed so that the unshaken could remain and be received.

B. The Material Universe

- a. Reason, in part, the Old Law was always to be removed – it pertained to the earthly creation:
 - i. **Hebrews 1:10-12** – they will perish.
 - ii. **Hebrews 9:1, 11** – earthly, of this creation – logically, it cannot continue forever.
- b. **Hebrews 12:26-27** – Hebrew writer emphasizes **“Yet once more,”** for the finality of removal – where nothing shakable remains.
 - i. While there is an obvious contrast between the Old Testament and the New, there is of necessity an emphasis on the physical in general.
 - ii. **“indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, AS OF THINGS THAT ARE MADE”** – i.e. the physical creation.
- c. **2 Peter 3:10-13** – when the shaking takes place, that which is made will be no more, but the unshakable will remain **(v. 13)**.
- d. The material universe is not unshakable, and will eventually be removed.
- e. Indicates that ALL PARTS of the material universe are shakable, thus, unreliable. They should not be the priority of life:
 - i. **1 John 2:15-17** – all sinful pleasure.
 - ii. **James 5:2-3** – material possessions, clothing, money, etc. (Speaking to ungodly rich, but true for all.)
 - iii. **Matthew 10:21-22, 34-39** – family.
 - 1. Even those who stand with you in the gospel are fallible.
 - 2. We are disappointed by each other all the time, MANIFESTING THAT WE ARE SHAKABLE.
 - iv. **2 Corinthians 4:16; 5:1-4** – physical body – perishing, groan.
 - 1. **Hebrews 9:27** – appointed for man to die – meaning God created us to have a “shakable” body.
 - 2. **2 Corinthians 4:7** – earthen vessels.
- C. **Hebrews 12:27** – the shaken is to be shaken once more for the removal of it, that the unshaken may remain.
 - a. Implication – UNSHAKEN EXISTS NOW AND WILL ALWAYS EXIST.
 - b. **(v. 28)** – those unshaken things can be pursued and taken into our possession – we can be associated with them, thus, FIND UNSHAKEN STABILITY WHEN THE SHAKEN NO LONGER REMAINS.

II. Things Which Cannot Be Shaken

A. God

- a. **Exodus 3:14-15** (Who Moses is to tell the elders sent him) – Not simply eternal in existence (**cf. John 8:58**), but in character/personality/etc – **“I AM WHO I AM”**

- i. **James 1:17** – no variation or shadow of turning (**cf. 1 John 1:5** – no darkness at all).
 - ii. People change, situations change, but God does not – HE IS ALWAYS WHO HE IS.
 - b. Cannot lie – **Titus 1:2**
 - c. Is just, punishes sin and rewards righteousness – **Psalm 37:28**
 - d. Always ready to forgive (grace and mercy) – **Psalm 86:5**
- B. Jesus Christ
 - a. **Hebrews 13:8** – like God the Father, He never changes. (**cf. John 1:1; 8:58** – one with the Father, eternal in existence and character)
 - i. **Context: (v. 7)** – strong leadership passed away, don't depart from their example; **(v. 9)** – attempt by others who remain to lead you astray, don't be carried by their doctrine.
 - ii. These changes occur and may have been what led to the change of the Hebrews since their conversion.
 - iii. **(v. 8)** – Christ hasn't given an inch – YOU LEFT HIM.
 - b. No matter the difficulty, Christ remains – **Hebrews 13:5-6** – Hebrews needed comfort and assurance, it was right there with Christ.
 - c. All the immutable traits of God are brought near us by Jesus – **1 Timothy 2:5-6** (Mediator to bridge the gap) – true (no lie), just, merciful, etc.
 - i. **Hebrews 1:3** – express image of God's person.
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 4:6** – glory of God in face of Christ.
 - d. He is our hope – **Colossians 1:27** ("**them**" – saints of **v. 26**)
 - i. **Hebrews 6:19** – gives stability in a shakable world.
- C. The Kingdom of Christ
 - a. **Haggai 2:6-7** – shake the nations leading to the Messiah's reign in His kingdom.
 - i. **Hebrews 12:28** – a kingdom that cannot be shaken.
 - ii. **Daniel 2:44** – all other kingdoms to be destroyed, but Christ's remains forever.
 - iii. As seen in Daniel's prophecy, one kingdom rises, another falls – **Psalm 146:3-4** – don't put your trust in princes.
 - iv. **Philippians 3:20** – our citizenship is in heaven.
 - b. Not of this world – **John 18:36-37** – thus, not subject to the destructive qualities of this world.
 - i. NOT EVEN DEATH PREVAILED, NOR WILL PREVAIL – **Matthew 16:18**
 - ii. "Death cannot keep his prey – Jesus, my Savior! He tore the bars away – Jesus, my Lord!"
- D. The Word of God
 - a. **1 Peter 1:23-25** – the word of God abides forever.
 - i. Unchangeable, true, eternally relevant, powerful, etc.
 - b. **John 12:48-50; Hebrews 4:12** – will stand in the judgment.

- E. Children of God, Disciples of Christ, Citizens of the Kingdom, Followers of the Word
 - a. Those identified with the unshakable things will remain unshaken in the end!
 - b. **1 John 2:17** – will abide forever.
- III. The Proper Response to Receiving What Cannot Be Shaken
 - A. Do Not Refuse Him Who Speaks – **Hebrews 12:25**
 - B. Have Grace – **Hebrews 12:28** (gratitude)
 - C. Serve God Acceptably, With Reverence and Awe – **Hebrews 12:28**
 - a. ***“let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe” (NASB)***
 - b. **Acceptably** – according to His will, and with the right spirit.
 - c. **Reverence** – godward piety, healthy fear before the one who can “SHAKE” all. (**v. 29** – HE IS STILL A CONSUMMING FIRE)
 - d. **Awe** – never downplaying the magnitude of the God we serve.

Conclusion

1. We must learn from the shakable qualities of this earthly existence that such will eventually be shaken “Yet once more.”
2. When the end comes, all will be removed – what will we have? Are we devoting our lives to the unshakable? Are we seeking assurance and stability in God, and the things which belong to Him?