

“Hope for Uncertain Times”

Hebrews 12:25 – 29

Big Idea – Hope is only certain when it’s anchored in Christ.

Hebrews 12:25 “So be careful and do not refuse to listen when God speaks. Others refused to listen to him when he warned them on earth, and they did not escape. So it will be worse for us if we refuse to listen to God who warns us from heaven.

26 When he spoke before, his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once again I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”

27 The words “once again” clearly show us that everything that was made—things that can be shaken—will be destroyed. Only the things that cannot be shaken will remain.

28, 29 So let us be thankful, because we have a kingdom that cannot be shaken. We should worship God in a way that pleases him with respect and fear, because our God is a consuming fire.”

We are living in the middle of “uncertain times” to use one of the most over-used phrases of the day. The Covid-19 pandemic has created or rather revealed how uncertain, how unsure, how shaky this old world really is.

We live in an unstable world and guess what? it is a world that is coming to an end.

2 Peter 3:10 says, ‘But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.’

Now that’s a bit of a worry isn’t it! We think it’s bad now but there’s coming a day when the very elements of everything as we know it will be destroyed.

But do you know what, it’s not all bad news – look at Heb 12:26,27

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1. Everything is being shaken today.

World monetary markets and the global economy, stock markets, banks, businesses, jobs, families, sports world, Hollywood, national and local governments...even marriages

I’m reminded of this story: Mrs. Jones went to the police station along with Samantha her neighbor to report her husband as missing. The policeman says, ‘Now Mrs. Jones, give me a full description of your husband.’ ‘Well’, replies Mrs. Jones, ‘he’s 35 years old, has beautiful wavy hair, a deep olive complexion, crystal clear blue eyes, an athletic build, he’s softly spoken and is ever so romantic’. ‘Hang on a minute’, says Samantha, ‘Your husband’s 48 years old, fat, bald, a big mouth and doesn’t have a romantic bone in his body!’ ‘Ok, Ok but who wants him back!’, came the reply.

Mrs. Jones was looking for a change – poor ole hubby didn’t know it but he was on shaky ground!

It’s a very comforting thought that in a world of change and disease and death, where it seems the only thing that is sure, is that nothing is sure – there are some things that cannot be shaken – there are some things that will remain.

Today we are going to consider some of those things:

2. Some things cannot be shaken.

The Throne of God

Psalm 45:6 says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever...’

Lamentations 5:19 says, 'You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation.'

Psalm 103:19 "The Lord has established his throne in heaven and his kingdom rules over all."

We can praise God that no matter what else happens – His throne remains secure!

But what does the Bible mean when it talks about God's throne?

- The Throne Represents God's Kingship

It means His rule. His rule will last forever and ever. Or as that verse from Lamentations puts it, 'You, O LORD, reign forever.'

- The Throne Represents God Himself. The throne will never be shaken because God will never be shaken. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the one and only true God will not be moved.

Hebrews 1:10-12 says this, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." God is eternal and unchangeable – nothing can shake or change Him.

- The Throne Also Represents Both Grace and Judgment.

As His children - As those who have placed our trust in Jesus Christ, we may freely come to the throne of grace and into the presence of God. But if we are not His children – if we have rejected or neglected the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will one day stand before the Judgment, the Great White throne of God.

The throne cannot be shaken! – are we loyal subjects to the King who sits on the throne? Do we willingly bow and confess Jesus Christ as Lord of lords and King of kings?

The Word of God

Matthew 24:35 Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

Psalm 119:89 “Forever, O Lord your word is settled in heaven.”

And Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:25 that ‘... the word of the Lord stands forever.’

God’s Word is like Himself. It will remain forever. It is unchangeable. We may try to change and manipulate it – but in the end we will discover that our efforts were in vain. It cannot be shaken!

The Bible is living and powerful and eternal. Each time we read the Bible we may be sure of three unshakable things:

- Its Power Cannot Be Shaken. Hebrews 4:12 ‘For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.’

The word of God has power to convict, to convert, to cleanse, to comfort and to counsel – and its power will never alter.

- Its Promises Cannot Be Shaken. It has been estimated that there are over 8,000 promises in God’s word – ranging from promises that God will never leave or forsake us, to promises of holy and righteous judgment. And He will remain faithful to them all – for the God of truth and faithfulness has made these promises.

- Its Prophecies Cannot Be Shaken. Many of the Bible’s prophecies have already been literally fulfilled and the prophecies that await fulfilment will also one day be literally fulfilled.

2 Peter 3:10 says, ‘But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.’

Do we long to read or listen to the word of God? Do we let it convict us and cleanse us and counsel us? Have we allowed the Word who became flesh, Jesus Christ, to take control of our lives?

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

We can thank God that in a 'shaky' world His Word remains secure.

The church of God

Jesus Himself said in

Matthew 16:18 assure us of this, '... I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.'

The visible church, the church as an organization may be shaken – and we have seen this in many ways.

But listen to what we are told at the end of Eph 1 about the true nature of the church,

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." Ephesians 1:22, 23

That just blows my mind!!

The mystical church, the church which is the body and bride of Christ. That church which is made up of those who have truly given their lives to Jesus, cannot and will not be shaken. The true church is secure, permanent and abiding. It is not a created thing! If we belong to that church - what a blessing it is to know that we are members of the body of Christ – we belong with countless others to that which is founded and built on none other than the risen eternal Jesus Christ.

The question is, are we members of the true church? For we can be trapped into thinking that because we attend 'church', or because we are Members of a 'church', or because we try to be religious and good – we are secure. But this may be false security!

For no matter how religious or righteous we appear, God knows our heart and what we have done with Jesus. And by our heart He will judge us – not by any outward righteousness, or 'church' attendance, or even displays of spiritual power. – Listen to the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:22-23, 'Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!''

But if we belong to the true church we may rejoice in the fact that the church will never be shaken.

The child of God

There are many wonderful promises in the word of God regarding this. He has pledged to keep His children secure until they are safely home with Him in glory. Do you realize that you a created being are so permeated by the Divine when you become one with Jesus that His life pulsates within you.

1 John 2:17 says, 'The world and its desires pass away, but the man (the person) who does the will of God lives forever.'

In John 10:28 Jesus says, 'I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.'

And Paul says in Romans 8:38-39, 38 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

As Christians we have eternal life and we cannot be shaken – for Christ is our strength and He cannot be shaken. He is our life. When all that can be shaken is removed, we will remain. And we shall dwell in our eternal inheritance in that city whose architect and builder is God.

How can we know if we have eternal life?

1 John 5:11&12 gives us the answer to that question, ‘... God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.’

We have eternal life when we have Jesus in our life.

3. My Hope can remain unshaken.

Hebrews 10:19 – 25

No fears – vs. 19 “boldness”

No guilt – vs. 22 “let us draw near with a clean conscience”

No doubts – vs. 23 “let us hold fast without wavering”

No division – vs. 24 “let’s move one another to love/good works”

No discouragement – vs. 25 “not forsaking the assembly...but encouraging one another”

Hebrews 10:35 “Do not throw away your confidence...which has a great reward, but continue on with endurance so after you do the will of God you may receive the promise”