

RECEIVING AN UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM

A man in white robes stands on a stage with a crowd of people in white robes. The scene is bright and celebratory, with palm trees and a large, multi-tiered staircase leading up to the stage. The man on the stage has his arms outstretched, and the crowd below has their hands raised in praise. The background is a bright, hazy landscape with architectural structures.

Lesson 12 for
March 19, 2022

Paul reminded us that we are at Mount Zion through our Representative, Jesus; surrounded by millions of angels and those who have been justified by faith like us.

This gathering began after Jesus ascended, and it will continue through a brief moment of judgement until “not only the earth, but also heaven” is shaken (Heb. 12:26).



Mount Zion:



A joyful gathering



A gathering of judgement



When everything is shaken:



What is shaken



The unshakable



Showing our gratitude

A JOYFUL GATHERING

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,” (Hebrews 12:22)

Mount Zion was the place on which Jerusalem and the ark of God stood. After some time, Zion became a synonym of God’s home (Ps. 9:11; 84:7; 134:3).



God meets with His people—the Remnant—there (Isa. 37:32; Rev. 14:1). They are the “assembly of the firstborn” (Heb. 12:23a).

We have been justified, therefore we are “the spirits of just men made perfect” (Heb. 12:23b).

Jesus inaugurated the Heavenly Sanctuary after He ascended. It stands on Mount Zion, like its earthly replica. We are gathered at the great celebration of the redeemed through Him.



“But even here Christians may have the joy of communion with Christ; they may have the light of His love, the perpetual comfort of His presence. Every step in life may bring us closer to Jesus, may give us a deeper experience of His love, and may bring us one step nearer to the blessed home of peace.”

E. G. W. (Steps to Christ, cp. 13, p. 125)

A GATHERING OF JUDGEMENT

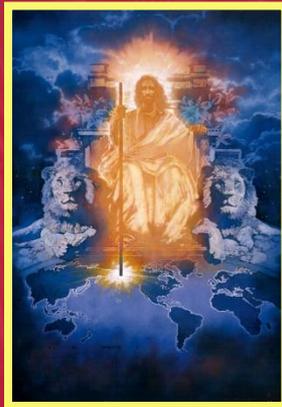
"to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect," (Hebrews 12:23)



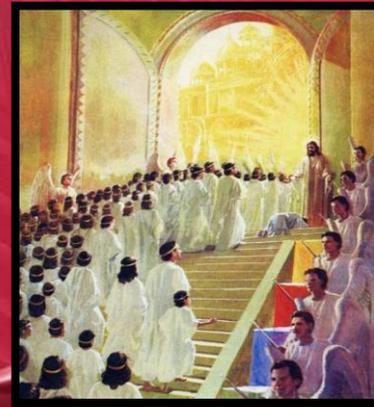
Once the judgement ends, Jesus will receive the kingdom (Dn. 7:14). Then, He will come back to give the kingdom "to the people, the saints of the Most High." (Dn. 7:27).

The judgement at Zion reminds us of the vision in Daniel 7:9-10. In that moment, the children of God "whose names are in the Book of Life" will be "made perfect" (Phlp. 4:3; Rev. 21:27; 20:15).

We are present in the judgement "in spirit" (1Co. 5:3) through Jesus the Son of man (Dn. 7:13).



The judgement is good news for us because the accusation against us will be rejected. A glorious future awaits.

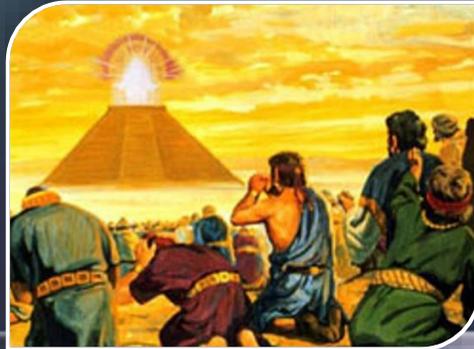
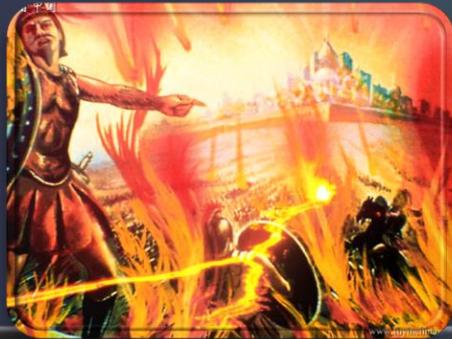


WHAT IS SHAKEN

"Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." (Hebrews 12:26)

God's intervention on Earth is usually described as an earthquake (Hag. 2:7; Jdg. 5:4; Ps. 68:8). The Second Coming and the final destruction of the wicked are also described like this (Is. 13:13; 24:19-23).

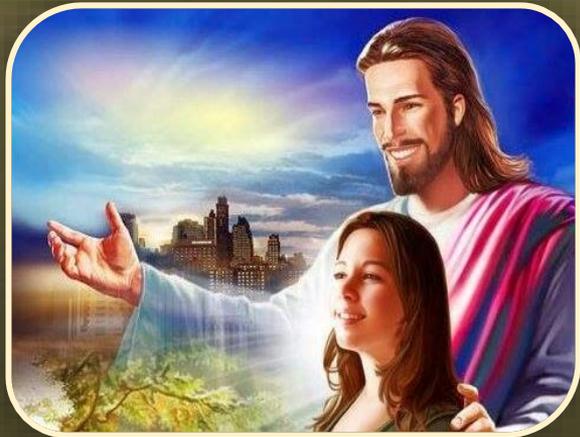
"The host of exalted ones" and "the kings of the earth" are the ones who will be shaken (Is. 24:21). This is, Satan and his angels, along with all who have not accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord.



Once they're shaken, the promise of the Father to Jesus will be fulfilled, since everything will be under His dominion (Heb. 1:13; Phlp. 2:10).

THE UNSHAKABLE

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." (Hebrews 12:28)



Those who have been justified and forgiven by Jesus will not be shaken (Ps. 16:8; 112:6).

On the other hand, Earth will be shaken and transformed (Rev. 21:1). It will become home for the citizens of an "unshakable kingdom." This kingdom belongs to Jesus, but He will share it with us.

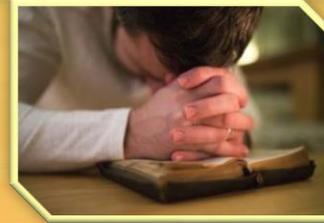


"There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved [...] The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." (Ps. 46:4-5, 11)

SHOWING OUR GRATITUDE

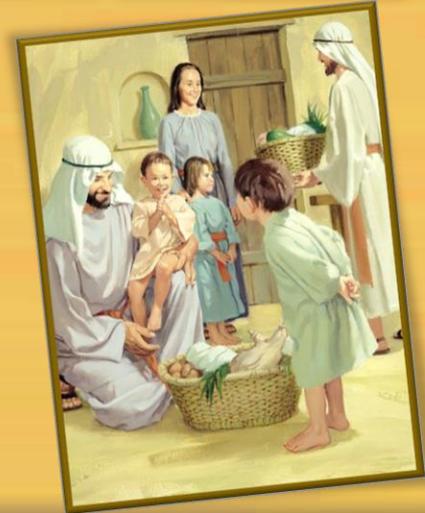
“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

Paul encouraged us “to be thankful” (Heb. 12:28). Let’s show our gratitude by offering ourselves to God “as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.” (Ro. 12:1)



Wanting to do God’s will by living a righteous life is our response to everything God has done and will do for us (Ps. 15).

Good works are a response to God’s love, so they are driven by love (Ro. 13:8). They are not just words, but specific acts (Heb. 13:2-5, 16).



How can you show your gratitude to God in a practical way?

“A transformation has taken place, and you are a different man. You are not the same passionate man that you used to be. You are not the same worldly man that you were. You are not the man that was giving way to the lust and evil passions, evil surmisings, and evil speakings. You are not this man at all because a transformation has taken place. What is it?—the image of Christ reflected in you. Then you are bearing in view that there is a company to stand by and by on Mount Zion, and you want to be one of that company, and you are determined that you will form a part of that company.”

E.G.W. (“Letters and Manuscripts – Volume 5 (1887-1888)”, Manuscript 13, 1888)