

# The Unshakable Kingdom

Today we see in Isaiah a God who deal with nations, shaking them, dismantling them, bringing them to their knees, or to complete extinction. They are humbled, as God shows just exactly who's boss.

Our God refuses to give up and just go away. Heaven is his throne, and earth is his footstool. And the book of Hebrews warns us that God will.....

## MEDIA SHOUT

***"Once more....shake not only the earth but also the heavens."  
The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken -  
that is, created things - so that what cannot be shaken may remain.***

That's the unsettling part. Here is the good news in light of the shaking going on all around us - for those of us who are in the Kingdom of Light.....

## MEDIA SHOUT

***Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,  
let us be thankful,  
and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,  
for our "God is a consuming fire."  
Hebrews 12:27-29***

## Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

### PRAYER

Jesus, you are the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him and to us. And like living stones, we are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood. This house is storm-proof. Nothing can move the walls of this structure you are building.

Thank you that as the Church of God we have accepted the gospel of the kingdom by faith. We have been enlightened, we have tasted of the heavenly gift, we have shared in the Holy Spirit, we have tasted of the word of God and the powers of the coming age. And these continue to delight us.

Thank you for the participation we have in the growth of your unshakable kingdom.

Thank you for the privilege of being your light of the world, and the salt of the earth.

Thank you for our eyes being open to the manifold wisdom of God, and that we get the joy of making that truth known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to your eternal purpose which you accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Father, thank you for the privilege of offering up to you spiritual sacrifices through your Son Jesus Christ. And particularly now, we are grateful for the sacrifice of praise. May it be a pleasing aroma to you. Amen.

## MEDIA SHOUT

### **WORSHIP LEADER:**

*"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe....*

### **CONGREGATION:**

*"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall."*

### **WORSHIP LEADER:**

*They stumble because they disobey the message - which is also what they were destined for.*

### **CONGREGATION:**

*But we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

### **WORSHIP LEADER:**

*Once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God...*

### **CONGREGATION:**

*...once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.*

### **WORSHIP LEADER:**

*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives*

*among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

## **Hallowed Be Your Name**

John's disciples reported to him about the spectacular ministry of Jesus, and John responded by sending two of his disciples to Jesus to ask....

### **MEDIA SHOUT**

*"Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?' "*

*At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy[b] are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."*

### **PRAYER**

Jesus, we thank you for the Kingdom of Light, and that you have made us part of that kingdom. May our faith grow till it chokes out all unbelief, may our understanding of who you are and what you desire of us be deepened and broadened, may our resolve to live for you outweigh those desires this world awakens in us, may our hope be steadfast, may our fervor find a second wind, and may our zeal for you go on unabated, until our final breath or your return. In the name of Jesus Christ who ran this race before us and finished well, we pray. Amen.

## **A Thousand Tongues**

## Isaiah 21-23

An oracle concerning the Desert by the Sea:

Like whirlwinds sweeping through the southland, an invader comes from the desert, from a land of terror. A dire vision has been shown to me:

The traitor betrays, the looter takes loot.  
Elam, attack! Media, lay siege!  
I will bring to an end all the groaning she caused.

At this my body is racked with pain, pangs seize me, like those of a woman in labor; I am staggered by what I hear, I am bewildered by what I see.

My heart falters, fear makes me tremble; the twilight I longed for has become a horror to me. They set the tables, they spread the rugs, they eat, they drink! Get up, you officers, oil the shields!

This is what the Lord says to me: "Go, post a lookout and have him report what he sees. When he sees chariots with teams of horses, riders on donkeys or riders on camels, let him be alert, fully alert."

And the lookout shouted, "Day after day, my lord, I stand on the watchtower; every night I stay at my post. Look, here comes a man in a chariot with a team of horses. And he gives back the answer: 'Babylon has fallen, has fallen! All the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground!' "

O my people, crushed on the threshing floor, I tell you what I have heard from the LORD Almighty, from the God of Israel.

An oracle concerning Dumah: Someone calls to me from Seir, "Watchman, what is left of the night? Watchman, what is left of the night?" The watchman replies, "Morning is coming, but also the night. If you would ask, then ask; and come back yet again."

An oracle concerning Arabia: You caravans of Dedanites, who camp in the thickets of Arabia, bring water for the thirsty; you who live in Tema, bring food for the fugitives. They flee from the sword, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow and from the heat of battle.

This is what the Lord says to me: "Within one year, as a servant bound by contract would count it, all the pomp of Kedar will come to an end. The survivors of the bowmen, the warriors of Kedar, will be few." The LORD, the God of Israel, has spoken.

An oracle concerning the Valley of Vision: What troubles you now, that you have all gone up on the roofs, O town full of commotion, O city of tumult and revelry? Your slain were not killed by the sword, nor did they die in battle. All your leaders have fled together; they have been captured without using the bow. All you who were caught were taken prisoner together, having fled while the enemy was still far away.

Therefore I said, "Turn away from me; let me weep bitterly. Do not try to console me over the destruction of my people." The Lord, the LORD Almighty, has a day of tumult and trampling and terror in the Valley of Vision, a day of battering down walls and of crying out to the mountains.

Elam takes up the quiver, with her charioteers and horses; Kir uncovers the shield. Your choicest valleys are full of chariots, and horsemen are posted at the city gates; the defenses of Judah are stripped away.

And you looked in that day to the weapons in the Palace of the Forest; you saw that the City of David had many breaches in its defenses; you stored up water in the Lower Pool.

You counted the buildings in Jerusalem and tore down houses to strengthen the wall. You built a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the Old Pool, but you did not look to the One who made it, or have regard for the One who planned it long ago.

The Lord, the LORD Almighty, called you on that day to weep and to wail, to tear out your hair and put on sackcloth. But see, there is joy and revelry, slaughtering of cattle and killing of sheep, eating of meat and drinking of wine! "Let us eat and drink," you say, "for tomorrow we die!"

The LORD Almighty has revealed this in my hearing: "Till your dying day this sin will not be atoned for," says the Lord, the LORD Almighty.

This is what the Lord, the LORD Almighty, says: "Go, say to this steward, to Shebna, who is in charge of the palace: What are you doing here and who gave you permission to cut out a grave for yourself here, hewing your grave on the height and chiseling your resting place in the rock?"

"Beware, the LORD is about to take firm hold of you and hurl you away, O you mighty man. He will roll you up tightly like a ball and throw you into a large country. There you will die and there your splendid chariots will remain - you disgrace to your master's house! I will depose you from your office, and you will be ousted from your position.

"In that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will be a seat of honor for the house of his father. All the glory of his family will hang on him: its offspring and offshoot - all its lesser vessels, from the bowls to all the jars.

"In that day," declares the LORD Almighty, "the peg driven into the firm place will give way; it will be sheared off and will fall, and the load hanging on it will be cut down." The LORD has spoken.

An oracle concerning Tyre: Wail, O ships of Tarshish! For Tyre is destroyed and left without house or harbor. From the land of Cyprus word has come to them.

Be silent, you people of the island and you merchants of Sidon, whom the seafarers have enriched. On the great waters came the grain of the Shihor; the harvest of the Nile was the revenue of Tyre, and she became the marketplace of the nations.

Be ashamed, O Sidon, and you, O fortress of the sea, for the sea has spoken: "I have neither been in labor nor given birth; I have neither reared sons nor brought up daughters."

When word comes to Egypt, they will be in anguish at the report from Tyre. Cross over to Tarshish; wail, you people of the island. Is this your city of revelry, the old, old city, whose feet have taken her to settle in far-off lands?

Who planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants are princes, whose traders are renowned in the earth?

**The LORD Almighty planned it, to bring low the pride of all glory and to humble all who are renowned on the earth.**

Till your land as along the Nile, O Daughter of Tarshish, for you no longer have a harbor. The LORD has stretched out his hand over the sea and made its kingdoms tremble. He has given an order concerning Phoenicia that her fortresses be destroyed.

He said, "No more of your reveling, O Virgin Daughter of Sidon, now crushed! "Up, cross over to Cyprus; even there you will find no rest."

Look at the land of the Babylonians, this people that is now of no account! The Assyrians have made it a place for desert creatures; they raised up their siege towers, they stripped its fortresses bare and turned it into a ruin. Wail, you ships of Tarshish; your fortress is destroyed!

At that time Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, the span of a king's life. But at the end of these seventy years, it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the prostitute: "Take up a harp, walk

through the city, O prostitute forgotten; play the harp well, sing many a song, so that you will be remembered."

At the end of seventy years, the LORD will deal with Tyre. She will return to her hire as a prostitute and will ply her trade with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth. Yet her profit and her earnings will be set apart for the LORD; they will not be stored up or hoarded. Her profits will go to those who live before the LORD, for abundant food and fine clothes.

#### MEDIA SHOUT

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

**CONGREGATION:**

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

**CONGREGATION:**

*God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

*Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

**CONGREGATION:**

*The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

*Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

**CONGREGATION:**

*He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields [b] with fire.*



**WORSHIP LEADER:**

*"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

**CONGREGATION:**

*The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*Psalm 46*

## **A Mighty Fortress**

### **SERMON**

#### **BENEDICTION**

**Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'**

**Daniel 7:27**