

A Kingdom Worldview

Sermon by Pastor Gregg Strawbridge

Hebrews 12:25–29

*See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. ²⁶And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “**Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.**” ²⁷This expression, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire.*

Refusing Christ (v. 25). The people of Israel refused the Word from Moses. But how much more should we not refuse Him who has accomplished the work of redemption and is now seated at the right hand of the Father. **Take Action:** Listen to Jesus, hear His Word, get counsel on how to regularly and effectively feed on God’s Word.

Shaking Earth and Heaven (vv. 26-27). The writer cites the book of Haggai, a book about the rebuilding of the temple (516 BC). That very (second) temple, along with the powers of heaven and earth of the first century are about to be shaken. Jesus Himself predicted this (Mk. 13, Mt. 24, Lk. 21). **Take Action:** Temporal judgments still come. Are you ready for the storm? Are you prepared spiritually for calamity? Where do you stand with Christ? Get right or get left behind (for judgment).

Unshakable Kingdom (vv. 28-29). After this shaking an unshakable kingdom would be established (Dan. 2:44, 7: 13ff). This argument is the capstone of the entire book of Hebrews. Therefore: “let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe” (v. 28). Gratitude flows out of our hearts in expressions of joy, praise, happiness, contentedness. It is in its essence a response to gifts given, to grace. A lack of gratitude is seen in criticism, backbiting, sarcasm, cynicism, fault-finding, slander, suspicion, judging, etc. The “acceptable service” is the idea of whole-life service/worship to God with profound recognition of God’s power and might. Reverence and awe is properly aligned fear. Only God is to be ultimately feared since He is a consuming fire (Matt. 10:28). If you have a low view of God you will fear many things. In Christ we should have our fears redirected and transformed into gratitude and acceptable worship in reverence and awe. **Take Action:** Press on with right worship, with God’s people, with faithfulness in family life, with your vocation, all of which can be part of this great kingdom advance. Repent of your apostasies. Worship the living God. Speak to your family about how their gifts and callings advance God’s kingdom. Encourage your friends and family in the gratitude that powers a properly aligned fear of the Lord.