

Hebrews 12:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Analysis

Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. This quotes Haggai 2:6, describing a future shaking. At Sinai, God's voice shook the earth (Exodus 19:18; Psalm 68:8), demonstrating His power over creation. 'But now he hath promised' (nyn de epēggeltai, νῦν δὲ ἐπήγγελλται) refers to Haggai's prophecy of final, cosmic shaking affecting 'not the earth only, but also heaven.' This indicates a coming judgment more comprehensive than Sinai, involving not just earth but entire created order, heavens included.

This eschatological shaking represents God's final judgment when He removes everything shakeable, leaving only the unshakeable kingdom. All human kingdoms, achievements, systems, and institutions will be shaken and removed. Only what belongs to God's eternal kingdom will endure. This isn't mere physical earthquake but comprehensive dissolution of the present evil age, making way for new heavens and new earth (2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1).

This teaches that present world order is temporary, destined for removal. Everything appears solid and permanent—governments, economies, cultures—but will be shaken and dissolved. Only God's kingdom is unshakeable. This should radically affect our priorities and investments. Don't build on what will be shaken; invest in the unshakeable kingdom. Reformed eschatology emphasizes God's

sovereignty over history, moving all things toward determined consummation when Christ returns to judge and renew creation.

Historical Context

Haggai prophesied (c. 520 BC) during temple rebuilding after Babylonian exile. His message encouraged discouraged returnees that God would shake nations, overthrow kingdoms, and fill His house with glory surpassing Solomon's temple. The prophet foresaw both near (Medo-Persian empire's overthrow) and far (final judgment) fulfillments. Hebrews applies this to eschatological judgment. Ancient world had witnessed numerous empires rise and fall—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece. Rome seemed permanent in first century but would also be shaken. The author warns that even greater shaking comes, affecting not just earthly kingdoms but heavens themselves. No created thing will escape God's final assessment.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that God will shake earth and heaven affect your priorities and where you invest time, energy, and resources?
2. What 'shakeable' things are you tempted to build your life upon rather than God's unshakeable kingdom?
3. In what ways should the coming judgment motivate you toward greater faithfulness and eternal focus?

Interlinear Text

οὗ	ἡ	φωνή	τὴν	γῆν	ἐσάλευσεν	τότε	νῦν	δὲ
Whose G3739	G3588	voice G5456	G3588	the earth G1093	shook G4531	then G5119	now G3568	but G1161
ἐπήγγελται	λέγων,	Ἔτι	ἅπαξ	ἐγὼ	σείω	οὐ	μόνον	
he hath promised G1861	saying G3004	Yet G2089	once more G530	I G1473	shake G4579	not G3756	only G3440	
τὴν	γῆν	ἀλλὰ	καὶ	τὸν	οὐρανόν			
G3588	the earth G1093	but G235	also G2532	G3588	heaven G3772			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 13:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Exodus 19:18 (Parallel theme): And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Joel 3:16 (Parallel theme): The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Isaiah 2:19 (Parallel theme): And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Habakkuk 3:10 (Parallel theme): The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

Hebrews 12:27 (Parallel theme): And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Haggai 2:22 (Parallel theme): And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

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