

# Hebrews 12:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

## Analysis

**Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**

This verse responds to the preceding description of cosmic shaking (v. 26-27) by contrasting earthly instability with the eternal stability of God's kingdom. "Wherefore" (dio, διό) connects this exhortation to previous teaching: because we receive an unshakeable kingdom, we should respond with appropriate worship.

"Receiving a kingdom" (paralambanontes basileian, παραλαμβάνοντες βασιλείαν) uses a present participle indicating ongoing reception—believers are currently receiving, entering, inheriting God's kingdom. This kingdom isn't merely future but a present reality believers enter through faith, though its consummation awaits Christ's return. "Which cannot be moved" (asaleuton, ἀσάλευτον) means unshakeable, immovable, permanent—contrasting with earthly kingdoms that rise and fall (Daniel 2:44, Hebrews 1:11-12). When God shakes creation, removing temporary things, His kingdom remains eternally secure.

"Let us have grace" (echōmen charin, ἔχωμεν χάριν) could be translated "let us be grateful" or "let us hold fast grace"—both meanings appropriate. Grace enables worship; gratitude motivates it. "Whereby we may serve God acceptably" (di' hēs latreuōmen euarestōs tō theō, δι' ἡς λατρεύωμεν εύαρέστως τῷ Θεῷ) defines grace's purpose—enabling worship that pleases God. Latreuō (λατρεύω) means religious service, worship, priestly ministry. "With reverence and godly fear" (meta

eulaseias kai deous, μετὰ εὐλαβείας καὶ δέους) describes worship's proper attitude—deep respect, awe, holy fear—not terror but profound reverence for God's majesty and holiness.

## Historical Context

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The author has been contrasting Mount Sinai's terrifying old covenant theophany (Hebrews 12:18-21) with Mount Zion's joyful new covenant assembly (Hebrews 12:22-24). Yet he warns against presumption: while believers approach God with confidence (Hebrews 4:16, 10:19), they must maintain holy reverence. God remains 'a consuming fire' (v. 29), not domesticated or trivialized. First-century believers faced severe persecution, tempting them to deny faith. This verse reminds them of their inheritance's incomparable value: an eternal, unshakeable kingdom that survives all earthly kingdoms' collapse. Rome's power appeared invincible, yet it too would fall. God's kingdom alone endures eternally. The exhortation to serve God 'acceptably' recalls Old Testament worship regulations requiring specific procedures, preparations, and attitudes. New covenant worship isn't careless or casual but deliberate and reverent, reflecting gratitude for Christ's access-granting sacrifice. The imminent destruction of Jerusalem's temple (AD 70) would soon vindicate the author's warnings about earthly things' shakability.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does receiving an 'unshakeable kingdom' affect your response to earthly instability and crisis?

2. What does it mean that we are currently 'receiving' God's kingdom, not just waiting for it?
3. How does grace enable acceptable worship, and what makes worship unacceptable?
4. What is the difference between godly fear and unhealthy religious terror?
5. In what ways does contemporary worship culture lack the reverence and godly fear described here?

## Interlinear Text

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Διὸ	βασιλείαν	ἀσάλευτον	παραλαμβάνοντες	
Wherefore	a kingdom	which cannot be moved	we receiving	
G1352	G932	G761	G3880	
ἔχωμεν	χάριν	δι'	ἵς	λατρεύωμεν
let us have	grace	whereby	G3739	εύαρέστως
G2192	G5485	G1223	we may serve	G3588
			G3000	acceptably
			G2102	God
				G2316
μετὰ	αἰδοῦς	καὶ	εὐλαβείας	
with	reverence	and	godly fear	
G3326	G127	G2532	G2124	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:15** (References God): By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

**Psalms 2:11** (Parallel theme): Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

**Daniel 2:44** (Kingdom): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

**Hebrews 4:16** (Grace): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**1 Peter 2:5** (References God): Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

**Psalms 19:14** (Parallel theme): Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

**Daniel 7:27** (Kingdom): And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

**Revelation 1:6** (Kingdom): And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**Isaiah 56:7** (Parallel theme): Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

**Romans 11:20** (Parallel theme): Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: