

The Shaking and Your Church Membership

Purpose: To show from God's word where our focus should be as it relates to our church membership – To show from the word of God how the shaking of the heavens and the earth is directly connected to where our membership is – To show from the word of God that the shaking of the heavens precedes the shaking of the earth, and how the former protects us from the latter and prepares us to be translated into God's everlasting kingdom.

Scripture: Hebrews 12:23 - 27

Hebrews 12:23 To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY and CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN, WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Note: Our membership should be right where the rest of the true children of God are written and we should not allow any tradition, whether good or bad, to overshadow, or make of none effect the truth concerning this matter.

Spirit of Prophecy: "We are NOT SAVED AS A SECT; NO DENOMINATIONAL NAME has any virtue to bring us into favor with God. We are saved individually as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. And "by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." We may have our NAMES RECORDED ON THE BOOKS of the MOST SPIRITUAL OF THE CHURCHES, and yet we may not belong to Christ, and our names may not be written on the Lamb's book of life. Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." If we could reach heaven through our own merits and efforts, then Christ need not have come to the world, to endure suffering, reproach, and shame, to be subjected to humiliation, mockery, insult, and death. He made an infinite sacrifice, because it was the only way whereby man could be saved. Those who believe in Christ will reveal it in their life and character. By beholding Christ they will be changed into his image, and Christ will be represented to the world by his followers. If we are branches of the True Vine, precious clusters of rich fruit will appear in the life as the natural result. Practical faith in Christ will result in the doing of his words; the believer in Jesus will work the works of God. "We are laborers together with God." "Without me," says Christ, "ye can do nothing." In and through the grace of Christ we can do all things. RH February 10, 1891, par. 6

Note: If you are a believer, teacher, or minister of any sort you should EMPHASIZE THIS! THE BIBLE! Jesus is not pleased when we repeat the EVILS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL AND THE BABYLONIAN CHURCHES by exalting policy, tradition and the precepts of men above the express written word of God.

Who is the FIRSTBORN that has the PREEMINENCE over the church?

Colossians 1:18 And he is the HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH: who is the beginning, the FIRSTBORN from the dead; that in all things he might have the PREEMINENCE.

When men lose sight of this, what occurs here on earth that demonstrates they are not actually part of the Church of the FIRSTBORN.

3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the PREEMINENCE among them, receiveth us not.

3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

**Why does the understanding above connect directly to the shaking of the heavens and the earth?
And how do the following seven Bible verses merge these two?**

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Hebrews 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Hebrews 12:27 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.

Removing – to transfer from one place to another.

Note: This removing is the transference of the name written in heaven to the earth [for the shaking or destruction of the earth]. Those who are not sealed [settled into the truth both intellectually and spiritually where they cannot be moved] will be removed from the book of life/the heavenly ledger, while those who are settled will have their names retained and be translated into the glorious physical kingdom. This physical translation into His kingdom was the result of the work of grace on the heart and mind bringing us into His spiritual kingdom or kingdom of grace. Enoch is an example of this complete experience.

Colossians 1:13 Who hath **delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

Hebrews 11:5 **By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death;** and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Hebrews 12:28 **Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved,** let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Luke 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! for, **behold, the kingdom of God is within you.**

Note: The kingdom of grace within us prevents or prepares us NOT to be shaken [removed] when God shakes the heavens. This shaking is taking place now and it does NOT consist in being shaken out of any earthly denomination or institution, but a departure from the faith and removal from the heavenly record books. The result will be the shaking of the earth, which is inseparable from the day of the Lord - the seven last plagues unto His visible return.

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

And how do we know that the shaking of the earth is a distinct event from the shaking of the heavens?

Jeremiah 10:10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: **at his wrath the earth shall tremble**, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Tremble – shake

Wrath – Seven Last Plagues. See Revelation 16:1; 15:1

Jeremiah 51:29 **And the land shall tremble** and sorrow: for **every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon**, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant.

Ezekiel 26:15 Thus saith the Lord GOD to Tyrus; **Shall not the isles shake at the sound of thy fall**, when the wounded cry, when the slaughter is made in the midst of thee?

Psalms 18:7 **Then the earth shook and trembled**; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

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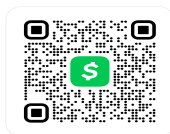
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