

# THE SHAKING

## God's Refining Work in His Church

*"Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven... that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." — Hebrews 12:26–27*



### I. THE SHAKING OF EARTHLY THINGS (MT. SINAI)

#### The Realm of External Religion

We begin at the mountain that could be touched, and that burned with fire. Sinai represents the terror of the Law without the Mediator. It is the place of external shaking—where the earth trembles, but the heart remains fearful and distant.

- **The Atmosphere:** Blackness, darkness, and tempest.
- **The Reaction:** "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling" (Moses).
- **The Lesson:** External forms of religion cannot withstand the presence of a Holy God. The "earthly" things—our traditions, our self-righteousness, our structures—must be shaken.

**"For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire..." — Hebrews 12:18**

### II. THE SHAKING OF HEAVENLY THINGS (MT. ZION)

#### The Realm of Internal Surrender

We are called upward. The shaking is not to destroy us, but to move us from the shadow of Sinai to the brilliance of Zion. Here, the shaking is not distinct from the love of God; it is the love of God removing everything that hinders love.

- **The Atmosphere:** Innumerable angels, the general assembly, God the Judge of all.
- **The Mediator:** Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant.
- **The Blood:** The blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

**"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem..." — Hebrews 12:22**

### V. THE UNSHAKABLES

#### Standing in Christ Alone

The shaking is final. It removes the movable things (created things) so that the immovable things may remain. Who will stand when the smoke clears?

Only those who have:

- Exchanged their own righteousness for His Robe.
- Opened the door to the Knocking Savior.
- Moved their citizenship from Earth to Zion.

### III. THE SHAKING OF LAODICEA The Great Deception

In the time of shaking, the greatest danger is not being cold, but being lukewarm—possessing the form of Zion but the reality of Babylon. **The Condition:** "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing."

**The Reality:** Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

**The Shaking:** God allows trials to break the illusion of our self-sufficiency.

### IV. THE DIVINE REMEDY Revelation

#### 3:18

Jesus offers three cures for the lukewarm heart. These are the elements that survive the fire.

The Symbol	The Meaning	The Contrast
Gold Refined in Fire	"Faith that works by love, tested by trials."	Vs. The Fool's Gold of Earthly Wealth
White Garments	The Righteousness of Christ alone.,	Vs. The Filthy Rags of Human Merit
Eye Salve	he Holy Spirit giving discernment.	Vs. Spiritual Blindness & Deception

**"Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near." — Isaiah 55:1**

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## For Small Groups & Personal Reflection

**Objective:** To help the group identify where they are relying on "earthly" security (Sinai/Laodicea) and to encourage a shift toward the unshakable kingdom of Christ (Zion).

### 1. ICEBREAKER: THE TREMBLE

**Ask:** Can you share a time in your life when your "earth" was shaken—perhaps a job loss, a health scare, or a shift in a relationship? Looking back, what "remained" after that shaking stopped?

**Purpose:** To ground the abstract concept of "shaking" in personal reality before diving into the theology.

### 3. THE LAODICEAN MIRROR

Read Revelation 3:14–17.

**The Illusion:** The Laodiceans said, "I am rich and have need of nothing." Yet Jesus called them "wretched and blind." How is it possible to be spiritually destitute while looking successful on the outside?

**Defining Lukewarm:** We often think "lukewarm" means "not zealous enough." But in this context, it implies mixing hot (healing) and cold (refreshing) to create something nauseating. In what ways do we try to mix the world's culture with Kingdom culture?

### 5. CLOSING APPLICATION: THE OPEN DOOR

Read Revelation 3:20.

**Reflect:** Jesus is knocking on the door of the church (believers), not just unbelievers. He wants to come in and sup (dine/fellowship) with us.

**Action:** What is one specific area (finances, family, hidden habits) where you have kept the door shut? What would it look like to open that room to Him this week?



## NOTES

### 2. TWO MOUNTAINS (Hebrews 12:18–24)

Read Hebrews 12:18–24 aloud.

**The Sinai Experience:** The text describes Sinai as a place of gloom, darkness, and terror. Why do you think religious rules and external performance (represented by Sinai) often leave people feeling fearful rather than secure?

**The Zion Shift:** Verse 22 says, "But you have come to Mount Zion." Notice it is past tense. How does knowing you are already in Zion change how you handle the "shaking" of the world right now?

**Discussion Point:** Many Christians visit Zion on Sabbaths but live at Sinai (under fear/performance) during the week. What does that look like practically?

### 4. THE DIVINE EXCHANGE (THE REMEDY)

Read Revelation 3:18.

Jesus offers a trade. Discuss what these three symbols look like in our daily lives:

**Gold refined in fire:** (Faith tested by trials). Are you currently in a "fire"? How can the group pray for that fire to produce gold rather than just ash?

**White Garments:** (Christ's righteousness). Are you trying to "stitch together" your own reputation, or are you resting in His?

**Eye Salve:** (Holy Spirit discernment). Where do we need fresh eyes to see our situation the way God sees it?

### PRAYER FOCUS

**Pray for Shaking:** That God would gently shake loose any reliance on external religion or self-sufficiency.

**Pray for Sight:** That the "Eye Salve" of the Spirit would reveal where we are lukewarm.

**Pray for Zion:** That the group would stand firm in the "city that cannot be shaken."