

Sermon 02: “The Shaking: A Time for Spiritual Renewal”

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Opening Hymn:

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (#506)

Closing Hymn:

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” (#517)

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:15-21

Introduction: What Does It Take to Build an Unshakable Faith?

Imagine an earthquake striking your home. Everything loose or unanchored shakes to the ground. Only what is firmly rooted stands unshaken. The Bible tells us that in these last days, there will be a spiritual shaking. This shaking is not random or cruel—it is part of God’s divine plan to refine, test, and prepare His people for eternity.

The question for us is this: Are we building our lives on the unshakable foundation of God’s Word and His character of love? Today, we will explore the biblical concept of the shaking, how it reveals the character of God, and how we can respond to His call for spiritual renewal.

I. Three Types of Believers in the End Days

A. “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

Revelation 3:15-21 KJV

B. Cold, Hot, or Lukewarm - Which one are you?

II. The Biblical Concept of the Shaking

A. A Prophecy of Shaking

The Bible frequently uses the image of shaking to describe moments of divine intervention. In Hebrews 12, Paul refers to God shaking Mount Sinai during the giving of the law (Exodus 19:18-20). This past shaking symbolizes a future, global shaking.

1. What does this prophecy mean for us?

The shaking removes everything temporary, false, or superficial, leaving only what is eternal.

It is a divine act of love, ensuring that His people are refined and prepared for His eternal kingdom.

2. God's Character in the Shaking:

God's shaking is not an act of destruction, but an act of love and mercy. He desires that nothing unfit for eternity remains in His people. This refining process is evidence of His patience, as He works to bring His children into full alignment with His will.

B. What Is the Shaking?

1. A Biblical Process of Refinement

The shaking is a divine process of testing and purifying. It is God's way of ensuring that His people are firmly anchored in Him.

- **Amos 9:9**

"For I will give the command, and I will shake the people of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and not a pebble will reach the ground."

- Just as a sieve separates grain from chaff, God uses the shaking to separate the faithful from the unfaithful.

- **Malachi 3:2-3**

"For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver."

- This process is not meant to destroy but to purify, ensuring that God's people are ready for His kingdom.

2. A Time of Testing

The shaking is a time when all will be tested to determine where their loyalty lies.

- **Hebrews 12:27**

“The words ‘once more’ indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.”

- Everything that is not firmly rooted in God will be shaken loose and fall away.

- **Matthew 13:24-30**

The parable of the wheat and tares reminds us that a time of separation will come, and only the wheat—the faithful—will remain.

God’s Love in the Shaking:

God desires authenticity in our faith. Just as a goldsmith purifies gold by fire, God uses the shaking to refine and purify our hearts. This is not to harm us but to make us vessels fit for His use.

C. Key Texts that Talk about a Shaking

Here are key Bible texts that describe the shaking among God’s people, highlighting the testing and refining process they will endure:

1. Hebrews 12:26-27

“At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’ The words ‘once more’ indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.”

- This passage emphasizes that the shaking is a divine process to remove all that is not rooted in Christ, leaving only what is eternal.

2. 1 Peter 4:17

“For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

- This verse explains that God’s refining process begins with His people, testing their faith and commitment.

3. Matthew 24:12-13

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

- This text warns of the spiritual crisis during the end times, where only the steadfast will endure.

4. Revelation 3:10

“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”

- This verse highlights the importance of patient endurance during trials, a key theme of the shaking.

5. Malachi 3:2-3

“But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.”

- This text illustrates God’s refining process, which purifies His people to prepare them for His coming.

6. Amos 9:9

“For I will give the command, and I will shake the people of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and not a pebble will reach the ground.”

- This verse uses the imagery of a sieve to describe how God separates the faithful from the unfaithful.

7. Ezekiel 9:4-6

“Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it. As I listened, he said to the others, ‘Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. Slaughter the old men, the young men and women, the mothers and children, but do not touch anyone who has the mark.’”

- This passage describes a time of judgment where only those who are faithful and mourn for sin are spared.

8. Isaiah 33:15-16

“Those who walk righteously and speak what is right, who reject gain from extortion and keep their hands from accepting bribes, who stop their ears against plots of murder and shut their eyes against contemplating evil—they are the ones

who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them.”

- This text shows that the righteous will be preserved during times of shaking and testing.

9. Daniel 12:10

“Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.”

- Daniel describes the shaking as a refining process where God’s faithful are purified and prepared.

10. 2 Thessalonians 2:3

“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.”

- This text points to a spiritual falling away, where those not grounded in truth will abandon their faith.

These passages collectively emphasize the shaking as a time of testing, refining, and separating true believers from the unfaithful, ultimately preparing God’s people for His return.

III. The Sequence of Events that Occur in the Shaking

The **shaking** is not confined to a single event but is part of an ongoing process that intensifies as the end of time approaches. It begins when conditions arise that test the faith and loyalty of God’s people, and it will culminate in the final events of earth’s history. Below are key insights from Ellen White and Scripture regarding **when the shaking begins**:

1. The Shaking Begins with the Preaching of the Straight Testimony

1. Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

- The straight testimony cuts deeply, exposing the true spiritual condition of individuals and the church, leading to a shaking.

2. **Matthew 10:34-36**

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'"

- Jesus' message of truth divides those who accept it from those who resist it, mirroring the shaking process.

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans."

(*Early Writings*, p. 270)

- The shaking starts when the straight testimony—clear, uncompromising truth—is preached. This includes calls to repentance and faithfulness, which some will accept, and others will reject.

2. The Shaking Intensifies as False Doctrines Are Introduced

1. **Matthew 7:24-27**

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

- Those whose faith is not built on the solid foundation of God's Word (the "rock") will collapse during the storms of false teachings and spiritual challenges, reflecting the shaking process.

2. **2 Timothy 4:3-4**

"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

- Paul describes how false doctrines and myths will appeal to those unwilling to accept sound doctrine, leading to spiritual instability and division in the church.

Ephesians 4:14

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.”

Explanation

Paul warns that false doctrines and cunning teachings will destabilize those who are not firmly rooted in the truth of God’s Word. These “winds of teaching” mirror Ellen White’s description of false theories infiltrating the church, leading to confusion and causing the shaking to intensify as members either cling to truth or fall away.

“When the shaking comes by the introduction of false theories, these surface readers, anchored nowhere, are like shifting sand. They slide into any position to suit the tenor of their feelings of bitterness.”

(Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 112)

- The shaking is heightened when false doctrines and theories infiltrate the church. Those not deeply rooted in Scripture are sifted out.

3. The Shaking Coincides with the Message to the Laodicean Church

“The Laodicean message is applicable to the people of God who profess to believe present truth. The greater part are lukewarm professors, having a name but no zeal.”

(Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1, p. 228)

- The Laodicean message (Revelation 3:14-22), which rebukes spiritual lukewarmness, is central to the shaking. When this message is preached, it begins to separate the faithful from the complacent.

4. The Shaking Increases with Worldly Alliances and Persecution

1. John 15:19-20

“If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”

- Persecution from worldly alliances will test God’s people, further separating the faithful from those who yield to compromise.

“As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks.”
(Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 400)

- The shaking intensifies when God's people face persecution and political pressures, particularly as they are tested over matters of loyalty to God's law, such as the Sabbath.

5. The Shaking Aligns with the Sunday Law Crisis

Revelation 14:9-10

"A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: 'If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.'"

Explanation

This text aligns with Ellen White's statement in *The Great Controversy* because it speaks directly to the end-time crisis of loyalty and worship. The mark of the beast represents allegiance to human authority and false worship (such as enforced Sunday observance), while refusal of the mark signifies faithfulness to God's commandments, including the Sabbath.

- **"Step by step yielded to worldly demands"** reflects the gradual spiritual compromise many make, leading to their acceptance of the mark.
- The **mark of the beast** becomes the ultimate test during the shaking, revealing those who have yielded to worldly demands and those who stand firm for God's law.

"The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be."

(*The Great Controversy*, p. 608)

- A significant phase of the shaking occurs when the Sunday law is enforced, testing the allegiance of God's people. Those loyal to God's Sabbath will be distinguished from those who conform to worldly demands.

6. The Shaking Reveals the Wheat and the Tares

Matthew 13:24-30

"Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.'

'The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?"

"'An enemy did this,' he replied. 'The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?"

"'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Explanation

This parable directly illustrates the process of separation during the shaking. In the time of harvest, which symbolizes the final crisis, the wheat (true believers) is gathered into God's kingdom, while the tares (those who are unfaithful or superficial in their faith) are separated and ultimately destroyed.

- The **"sinners in Zion"** that Ellen White mentions align with the tares in this parable.
- The separation is not immediate but occurs during the time of harvest, representing the shaking and end-time crises.

"The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat." (Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 380)

- As the shaking continues, it separates true believers (the wheat) from the unfaithful (the tares). This process escalates during times of crisis.

7. The Shaking Intensifies Before the Final Outpouring of the Latter Rain

Malachi 3:1-3

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness."

Explanation

This passage directly aligns with the idea that the shaking purifies God's people, preparing them for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the latter rain. The process of refining, described as a "refiner's fire," symbolizes the trials and sifting that purify the church so that only the faithful remain.

- The "**messenger**" prepares the way for God's work of refining and purifying His people.
- The purification ensures that God's people are ready to bring "offerings in righteousness," symbolizing their readiness to proclaim the gospel with power during the latter rain.

Supporting Texts

1. Joel 2:28-29

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

- The "afterward" in this prophecy suggests a time of preparation, including the shaking, which refines God's people and prepares them to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the latter rain.

"The Lord will work to purify His church. He will sift out men and women who are not fit to be members of His family."

(Manuscript Releases, Vol. 12, p. 318)

- The shaking must purify the church before the latter rain—the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit—empowers God's people to proclaim the gospel with power.

Key Factors That Trigger the Shaking

1. **Preaching of the Straight Testimony:** Calls to repentance and faithfulness cause division among God's people.
2. **False Doctrines:** The entrance of unbiblical teachings tests the faith of believers.
3. **Worldly Alliances:** Compromise with worldly customs and politics shakes the church's foundation.
4. **The Sunday Law:** A pivotal test of allegiance to God's law versus human authority.
5. **The Laodicean Message:** A rebuke to spiritual complacency that separates the lukewarm from the faithful.

Scriptural Support for the Timing of the Shaking

1. Hebrews 12:26-27

“At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’ The words ‘once more’ indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.”

- The shaking begins when God’s truth challenges all false foundations.

2. **Amos 9:9**

“For I will give the command, and I will shake the people of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and not a pebble will reach the ground.”

- The shaking involves a divine sifting process that separates the faithful from the unfaithful.

The Shaking Is Already Underway

Ellen White indicates that the shaking began as soon as God’s straight testimony started to be preached and as false doctrines infiltrated the church. However, it intensifies as the end-time crises approach, especially with the enforcement of the Sunday law and the final testing of loyalty to God’s commandments. The shaking is not a single event but an ongoing process that culminates in the purification of God’s church for the latter rain and Christ’s return.

The question is: **Are you ready to stand firm when everything around you is being shaken?**

IV. God’s Purpose in the Shaking - Why Does God Allow the Shaking?

A. To Test the Faithful

The shaking reveals the sincerity of our faith.

- **1 Peter 1:6-7**

“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold—may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

- Just as gold is tested in fire, so is our faith tested through trials.

B. To Refine and Purify

God allows the shaking to remove sin and worldliness from His people.

- **Isaiah 48:10**

“See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.”

- The shaking is part of God's loving plan to prepare His people for His kingdom.
- **2 Timothy 2:19**
"Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."
- The shaking ensures that only those fully committed to God will remain.

C. To Prepare for Christ's Return

The ultimate purpose of the shaking is to fit God's people for eternity.

- **Revelation 3:10**
"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth."
- Those who endure the shaking are prepared to stand firm in the final crisis.

God's Love in Preparation:

Every shaking is a call to readiness. It is an act of divine love, ensuring we are not lost in the storms of life but anchored in His eternal promises.

V. How to Remain Steadfast in Three Ways During the Shaking

A. Be Rooted Like a Tree in God's Word

The Bible is our foundation during the shaking.

- **Psalms 119:105**
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- Daily study of Scripture strengthens our faith and prepares us for trials.
- **Matthew 7:24-25**
"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."
- Build your life on the solid foundation of God's Word.

B. Maintain a Close Relationship with God

Prayer and communion with God are essential to endure the shaking.

- **John 15:4-5:** *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 'I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.'"*

C. Trust in God's Plan

Even in the shaking, God is in control.

- **Romans 8:28**

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

- Trust that God's plan is for your ultimate good, even if the process is painful.

- **Isaiah 26:3**

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

- A steadfast mind finds peace in God's unchanging character.

VI. Practical Steps to Do Now

1. **Daily Self-Examination**

- Ask yourself: *"What areas of my life are not fully surrendered to God?"*
- *"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts"* (Psalm 139:23).

2. **Strengthen Your Spiritual Foundation**

- Spend time daily in Scripture, prayer, and reflection to deepen your relationship with God.
- Commit to memorizing key Bible verses that strengthen your faith.

3. **Live with Expectancy**

- Remember that the shaking is part of God's plan to prepare His people for Christ's return.
- *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour"* (Matthew 25:13).

VII. Conclusion: Are You Ready to Stand?

1. The shaking is not something to fear but to embrace. It is a process designed by God to deepen our faith and prepare us for His unshakable kingdom. Every trial is a reminder of His love, a refining fire that purifies us for eternity.

2. Ellen White reminds us: *"The time is upon us when the shaking will test the faith of every individual. Will you stand the test?"* (Early Writings, p. 271)

3. The shaking has already begun. It is a call to spiritual renewal, not just survival. God is asking each of us: *"Will you trust Me? Will you let Me refine you for My kingdom?"*

4. If you feel the shaking in your life, know that it is God's love at work. He is preparing you for something greater than you can imagine. Stand firm in His promises, trust in His love, and allow Him to anchor your faith.

Let us pray.