

John Jeffreys
An Unshakeable Kingdom
Zoom Mtg-Sun-1-9-2022

Lord, we do ask You to move through the word and bring forth and emphasize Your truth into our hearts. We're witnesses that we might run this race that You have set before us. Thank You for so many wonderful teammates that we might run together, and thank You for Him who ran before us. In Jesus name, Amen.

We've had a number of brethren taken to the other side here. It has left some holes in the ranks, for sure. It makes you look at the resurrection; it makes you focus on it one more time, and I'm going to do that again, God willing, now.

I'd like to start in going to 1 Corinthians 15. I'm going to read from The Passion Translation most of the time, but I have the New King James Version, also, so I'll be using both sometimes.

1 Corinthians 15:20 (TPT), But the truth is, Christ is risen from the dead, as the firstfruit of a great resurrection harvest. He is the firstfruit. The firstfruit is the one that accurately predicts what the rest of the harvest in the garden will be like. He's the firstfruit of a great resurrection harvest.

Paul goes on to say, and I'm not reading it specifically, that because death came through a man, it's only befitting that resurrection comes through a man, even Christ Jesus. Then it says:

Verse 22-23, Even as all who are in Adam die, so also all who are in Christ will be made alive. But each one in his proper order: Christ, the firstfruits, then those who belong to Christ in his presence. (that's what the Greek word, Parousia, means, at His coming; the primary first meaning in the Lexicon is "in His presence".) The one who taught me that, years ago, was Brother Ken Franklin.

Verse 24-26, Then the final stage of completion comes (the final stage of completion), when He will bring to an end every other rulership, authority, and power, and He will hand over His kingdom to Father God. Until then (in the process of heading to that), He is destined to reign as King until all hostility has been subdued and placed under His feet. (As you can see and as you have observed, there's plenty of hostility that needs to be subdued.) And the last enemy to be subdued and eliminated is death itself.

That's the last enemy. So, in other words, it would follow in my thinking, that when you see Him putting down all hostility and all other reigns that we are then drawing closer and closer to the final step, which is the elimination of death itself.

Verse 51-52, Listen, and I will tell you a divine mystery: not all of us will die, but we will all be transformed. It will happen in an instant—in the twinkling of His eye. (The note on that verse says, in an atom of time [Greek, en atomo]. It will happen in an atom, in the twinkling of His eye. I've

been thinking about that and I'll just risk this: If it's going to happen in an "atom", in the twinkling of His eye, does that make the whole thing atomic? I think it does.) *For when the last trumpet is sounded, the dead will come back to life. We will be indestructible and we will be transformed.*

Verse 54b-55, Death is swallowed up by a triumphant victory! So, death, tell me, where is your victory? Tell me death, where is your sting?

Verse 58, So now, beloved ones, stand firm (stable) and (enduring) secure. Live your lives with an unshakeable confidence. We know that we prosper and excel in every season by serving the Lord, because we are assured that our union with the Lord makes our labor productive with fruit that endures. That's a good word for all of us. Come with me to Hebrews 12, please.

Hebrews 12:26 (TPT), (Here, the author is speaking about Moses' voice on Mt. Sinai and when he spoke, everybody shook. He is likening it to God speaking in this hour.) The earth was rocked at the sound of his voice from the mountain (Mt. Sinai), but now He has promised, "Once and for all I will not only shake the systems of the world, but also the unseen powers in the heavenly realm!"

Once and for all, not to be repeated again, on not only the unseen systems of this world, but the unseen powers in the heavenly realm. That is a thorough, perfect, final shaking.

Verse 27, Now this phrase "once and for all" clearly indicates the final removal of things that are shaking (and dear ones, we have plenty of shakings in this hour; everything is shaking in this hour), it indicates the final removal of things that are shaking, that is, the old order, so only what is unshakeable will remain. Now this very significant because it goes on to say:

Verse 28-29, Since we are receiving our rights to an unshakeable kingdom, we should be extremely thankful and offer God the purest worship that delights His heart as we lay down our lives in absolute surrender (of course, that's on a daily basis), filled with awe. For our God is a holy, devouring fire!

I will repeat again: *Since we are receiving our rights* (that's the Greek word, "paralambano"; for heirs who have the rights of succession to a throne). That's like Prince Charles having the rights to inherit the throne of England, but he has a mother who is not going to let him. Nonetheless, that's what it means. You and I have the rights, by the Spirit of God and by the blood of the Lord Jesus, that we have the rights to inherit a kingdom, but not just a kingdom, it's an unshakeable kingdom.

Then there's one other thing that I want to go to, Colossians 1:15, because it has something to do with being heirs of the kingdom.

Colossians 1:15-16 (TPT), He is the divine portrait, the true likeness of the invisible God, and the firstborn heir of all creation. (Now, the word, "firstborn" is the Greek word, "prototokos"; that word is behind our word for "prototype". Why does somebody make a prototype? Why is it necessary for anybody to first build a prototype? It's because the prototype is in place that it may bring forth other ones exactly like that.) He is the heir of all creation, for in Him was created the

universe of all things, both in the heavenly realm and on the earth. Both in the seen and the unseen. Every seat of power realm of government, principality and authority, it all exists through Him and for His purpose.

Verse 18, He is the Head of His body, which is the church. And since He is the beginning and the firstborn heir in resurrection, He is the most exalted One, holding first place in everything.

Since He is the beginning and the firstborn heir, in resurrection—why did God produce a prototype in resurrection? That is very clear: it's because He intends to bring many sons to that exact same inheritance; they are heirs in the resurrection. That's what it means when it says that we are heirs of an unshakeable kingdom.

We are in shaking times and we need to keep our eyes on Him, as we all well know. It seems to be increasing and I think that's right on schedule, and it will continue to increase. God will be doing some wondrous things in the future. I believe, and I'm not trying to be negative, or discouraging here, but I believe there will be a number of upheavals in the United States in this year (2022), between now and the election. It doesn't really take a prophet to say that. The One who is in control all of the time, it will be Him; He is the One who will be putting down every hostile power. We might see the beginnings of it when President Trump unveils "Truth Social" media. I will reckon that millions will come on to it where the truth can be spoken openly, without censorship; it will not be taken well by the enemies of the cross. I believe it's coming online because so much evidence is going to be laid out through that media. It's going to become very, very clear and the enemy will become even be more afraid than they already are. God is able to do what He's going to do in the shakeable realm and still hold His sons and daughters in the realm that is unshakeable.

He was the prototype and He ran the race before us and He is the one we want to hold to and move with. If we go to Hebrews 11, we can see what we're running for; we can see what the goal is.

Hebrews 11:1-2 (NKJV), Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders (that's those who went on before us) obtained a good testimony. We understand what that testimony was when we go down to verse 5.

Verse 5-6, By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken, he had this testimony, that he pleased God. (That's the goal.) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

If we go to the end of the chapter, after all these names are listed of those, who by faith, actually had the testimony that they pleased God, it says in the last two verses of the chapter:

Verse 39-40, And all thess, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect (come to the absolute fullness of it) apart from us.

I'm not going to turn to it, but in Romans 5 it says, as our song says, tribulation worketh patience, and patience works experience, and experience worketh hope. If there was ever a time of shaking, which is what tribulation means, it's now. The word "experience" is a poor translation. It should actually be "approved character". It's the Greek word, "dokime", and means to come to the place of approval. That is what pleases God. You and I cannot do that apart from faith, but we put our faith in Him and He's given us a great forerunner, the "Prototokos," the Lord Jesus Christ, who has run this race that we are about to look at in 12:1. He's the first one who ran the race, and by the way, He ran it all by Himself, so to speak. No wonder He knows the course of that race. No wonder He knows every turn and twist in it. No wonder He can be the one, that if we trust in Him, He can lead us to the goal of being found pleasing, being found pleasurable, being found approved unto God. That's the greatest crown we could ever go for. That's the greatest crown that we stand in jeopardy of losing.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV), Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

What does it mean about 'a great cloud of witnesses?' A cloud always speaks of a gathering; it's always speaking of an immense gathering. What is a witness called for in any court? A witness is called in the court to give testimony. They are holding a testimony. What is this cloud of witnesses testifying to us about? They are testifying to us, who are now running this race. They are testifying, "Look, we ran this race looking to our forerunner, the Lord Jesus. He brought us through and He gave us this phenomenal testimony that we were pleasing unto God." So they are saying to us, "If He can do it for us, He can do it for you." This is not a solitary race where everyone of us is just running in it, maybe against competitors. Paul said, "In any good race, every man runs all out, but only one obtains the crown. Usually that crown, in the days of the Greeks and the Romans, it was a woven crown of myrtle leaves, but even a crown of gold could be given or some other precious metal. One man though would win the race, but this is not the race that you and I are in. This is a relay race, and there have been those who have been listed here in the 11th chapter of Hebrews, who ran it, and they are recorded as having won the prize. Down through the centuries, and down through the decades, they have gone down before us. In all the moves of God, since the early Church until now, there have been those who have taken the race seriously; they have leaned upon the forerunner and have won that race. They ran that race, and many times they ran it for their children and they ran it for the next generation. This is not a race where you see in the Olympics where one wins. This is a relay race where every generation runs full out because they don't want to fall behind and hand the baton to the next generation and have them already behind when they start to run. They ran a full race before the Lord that they might pass the baton onto the next generation. That has gone on for generation after generation after generation. But folks, I don't need to tell you. We're at the last lap. We're at the last relay; we're at the last runner. If I'm not right, then it's the next to the last, but it's a late hour.

So, when the last runner reaches out, you've probably seen a film where they have their hand out in order to grab that baton and they start off on that last lap, they are not running for themselves.

You and I are not running for ourselves. You and I are running for one another; we are running for all the generations. When that last runner starts, the rest of the runners, who ran down through the centuries, they're not all in the stadium clubhouse drinking lemonade, they are right on the very front line cheering them on, because the winner of that race is the winning of the victory for all. It is the great victory. You and I didn't get to choose what lap we would run, but we've been placed here by Him and this is the time and He has the power for us.

Verse Hebrews 12:1b-2 (NKJV), let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher (actually means the perfecter) of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the beginning of the chapter that shows us how to prepare for the end of the chapter that we read about inheriting an unshakeable kingdom. Let me point out a few other points in it (Hebrews 12). For one thing, you have to lay aside every weight and all the baggage. Some of those decisions are decided once and for all, but other ones have to constantly be renewed. One of the things it warns us about is in verse 1.

Hebrews 12:1b (TPT), So we must let go of every wound that has pierced us and the sin we so easily fall into. In the notes, it says that we have to get rid of every arrow tip in us. You could actually interpret it that way in the Greek. The implication is carrying an arrow tip inside, a wound that weighs us down and keeps us from running our race with freedom.

I think when I'm speaking to people who have been running this race for 50 years, you know exactly what the author of this book is referring to. You know what it means to have been hit with an arrow just the same as you probably, undoubtedly known when you launched an arrow. God has known about every one of those and these are issues that we cannot reach down inside and pluck them out. We have to come to Him and we have to come to Him daily that we might be free from anything that would weigh us down, and interfere with our union and communion with Him. These things are always present and always possible; another wound and another ploy of the enemy to slow us down, but we have got to keep coming before Him.

Verse 2b, His example is this: Because His heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be His, He endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God! This is where He endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him. The joy that was set before Him was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be His. That's the one who ran before us and He is all for us running a race and coming to the finish line. Then it talks about depression and don't become depressed when He corrects you. I wish I could tell you I have a perfect record on that one, but I don't.

Verse 6, For the Lord's training of your life is the evidence of His faithful love. And when He draws you to Himself, it proves you are His delightful child. Even after correction, when He draws you to Himself and you suddenly realize that you're sitting there with your Bible open and the Lord has just embraced you. That proves His delight in us. There are times when I get up in the morning and

sit down and I don't know where to turn or what to go to, unless I'm working on something and then I do, but a lot of times I don't know and I say, "Lord, I don't know. You've got to awaken me in the Spirit. I don't know where to go."

I remember that verse in Psalm 5 in The Passion Translation. It was the first thing I had ever read in The Passion Translation. Let's read that. This is one of the proofs of His being all for us. The wording is a little different here.

Psalm 5:3 (TPT), At each and every sunrise you will hear My voice (That probably sounds familiar to you. Then it shows the priestly terminology in the Hebrew for preparing the offerings, cutting up the offerings and putting it on the altar, so off of that, this is the way they rendered it:) At each and every sunrise you will hear My voice as I prepare my sacrifice of prayer to You. Every morning I lay out the pieces of my life on the altar and (this is the part that really hit me) wait for Your fire (you would think it means to come on the altar) to fall upon My heart.

Brethren, I believe that you have experienced the exact same thing that I have. You look to the Lord to awaken your spirit for the day and what's going through your mind are all the pieces of your life; some of them are beyond you and some of them there is no answer for them, yet, some of them just plain irk you and bother you. All the pieces of your life, you just lay it all out onto Him and you look up and you wait on Him, for His fire to fall upon your heart. He can do it a multitude of ways and when He does, you know for sure, you are still in the race you know for sure He is still beside you and coaching every footstep along the way towards the ultimate goal.

The grand prize is not a wreath; the grand prize is not a crown; the grand prize is knowing that you are a delight and pleasing unto God. What a race! What a crown! That's the company that gets to hold onto its birthright.

Back in chapter 12, I want to bring up a passage here that's closer to where we read about the unshakeable kingdom. It's here in:

Hebrews 12:21-23 (TPT), The astounding phenomena Moses witnessed (this is from Mt. Sinai) caused him to shudder with fear and he could only say, "I am trembling in terror!" (But you see, we're not at Mt. Sinai; we're at Mt. Zion.) By contrast, we have already come near to God in a totally different realm, the Zion-realm, for we have entered the city of the Living God, which is the New Jerusalem in heaven! We have joined the festal gathering of myriads of angels (it's an innumerable company of angels in KJV) in their joyous celebration! And as members of the church of the Firstborn, all our names have been legally registered as citizens of heaven!

The angelic realm knows how close this battle is; we see that in Revelation 12. When the manchild is caught up to the throne, we see that a war breaks out in the heavenlies and it results in the devil himself being thrown down to the earth; he loses his place in the heavens, then the beasts come forth. We're in this great war and the angels are involved in it. If we could see, like Elisha's servant could see, he had his eyes open to the angels that were around their situation. If we could see it, I think if we would be taken back—the myriads of angels in their joyous celebration.

It says in the Song of Songs when he describes the Shulamite he said, “You are beautiful my love, as if you danced with angels. In the last song, he invites her to come and dance with him. I want to take you to another place where this is shown and it’s in Genesis 32. This is the place of the dancing with the angels. This is Jacob now; Jacob is us, in more ways than one. Jacob has been up in Syria with Laban. Could he come to the fullness—could he come to what he was to be an heir of while he was in Syria? No; he couldn’t. At the right time, God called him out of Syria, and when he crossed the line into the Promise Land, he came to this place:

Genesis 32:1 (TPT), as Jacob continued toward Canaan, the angels of God came to meet him! (See, there are the angels of God coming to meet him.) When he saw them, he exclaimed, “This is God’s military camp!” So he named that place Two Camps of Angels (It says in Hebrew, “Mahanaim,” meaning The Place of Two Camps.) As soon as he crossed the line, he was met by a great multitude of the angelic host, which is exactly as it was when we read it a moment ago, about those who are coming to Zion and an innumerable host of angels.

Why? Why did those angels meet him there? Because they knew he was the heir. They were there to conduct him to the River Jabbok, where a tremendous change would take place, conduct him through many dangers, through adverse tribes, and to bring him after 20 years journey, (which is the number for redemption) back to his father. The angels were involved in conducting him to that place of the finished race. That’s why we have been brought to Mt. Zion; there’s an innumerable company of angels and it just gives you the picture of a dance that’s on that other side. I’ve never tried to dance with angels, brethren; I’m not saying that. I’m not going to guarantee that I won’t. I’ve learned not to say that, too.

I remember this: Brother Sam said, “Sometimes when I’m by myself and Sister Lee is not home, and I start walking and praying in a circle. Sometimes the presence of God falls on me such a way that I hop around; I jump around the room like a bullfrog.” Does anybody else remember that? I’ve often thought of that, but have never imitated it. I wouldn’t put anything past the Lord. But what if Brother Sam wasn’t as alone as he thought he was? Why would the angels be drawn to him and to us? They see the heir to an unshakeable kingdom and the fall of all hostile powers, even in the heavenly realms. That is what we’ve been called to, it is a kingdom that is in the glory realm.

I want to go to Isaiah 6:1 and I’ll quote it, rather than read it. I’ve quoted this before, but it means a lot to me. Jacob, at the beginning of his journey, saw part of the glory realm at Beth-el, where the angels were ascending and descending from glory. Then the angels met him when he returned into the land. I remember a word that I heard from Brother Sam; it was a long time ago. I had Brother Purcell and other brethren try to track that tape down for me, and no one could ever find it. This was one of the keys of the timing; I’m going to quote this on purpose: ‘Next month I will be going to Italy for the first time.’ He said, ‘When I get there, I’m going to lay my head down on the pillow, I’m going to do what Jacob did when he laid his head down.’ He said, ‘I am going to command the angels to go before me. I’m going to command the angels to set the very atmosphere of the meeting; I’m going to command the angels for the word to penetrate the hearts.’ I was so moved by that. I was about to have a meeting on the farm where I was in Alaska,

and I got on my knees (I was quite young at the time) and I got on my knees and I dared to say, “God I’m asking You to go before me into the meeting; I’m asking You, would You command Your angels, Lord, to set the very atmosphere of the meeting? Would You command the angels, Lord, to feed Your people and to set them free?”

So, I ministered there at the meeting. The brethren were all seated before me. There was a center aisle and the pulpit; behind was a set of French doors. I never mentioned anything about Brother Sam’s word; I never mentioned the word “angels”. I think I was ministering on David, the Stripling, which shows you how long ago it was. When I was done, I sat down and Sister Marge Shirack raised her hand and said, “Brother John, I saw a vision while you were preaching. While you were preaching, I saw the French doors behind you swing open and in walked Brother Sam, and with him was a whole company of angels. Brother Sam stood there with his hands on his hips, looking around at all of us, so I turned and I looked at us and we had chains on our ankles and chains on our wrists and you didn’t know Brother Sam was standing next to you with his hands on his hips. Brother Sam starts pointing and the angels started going down the center aisle and they moved in and out of the aisles while taking the chains off. As each one of the angels finished his assignment, they come up stood beside Brother Sam. When all of them had come up, Brother Sam still stood there with his hands on his hips, with a smile on his face, and motioned with his head for the angels to follow him, and they all went out the French doors.

Folks, it doesn’t get any clearer than that. There was nothing that I said that could possibly have linked to that. I’m just saying to you that there’s a reality of a whole army that is for us and involved with you and me crossing the finish line and coming into the fullness of the glory.

When Isaiah was taken in to the glory. Isaiah was not expecting it, I take it. It’s in Isaiah 6:1. When he stepped into it, he was in the glory realm, which is Mt. Zion, where you and I have been called to. He was in the glory realm, and he stood there and he started to shake because he’s facing the throne of God and he said, “The throne of God stood far above me and I saw the majesty of the One sitting there and I saw His robe was filling the whole house. Then, way at the top, I saw the burning ones.” That’s what The Passion Translation says, because “Seraph” is the word for burning and for fire; Seraphim at the ones who are “burning in the pure fire of God”. They were saying to one another, Holy! Holy! Holy! Then they would declare, ‘Holy is the Lord of Hosts’; that word, “hosts,” means armies—the Lord of Angels’ Armies, then it says, “The whole world is filled with His glory.” That thing went through me like a lightning strike. I was out walking around the farm, on my every-other-day walk for a couple of miles. I was all by myself and all of a sudden that came to me and I started to say it out loud and it went all through me. We are in a phenomenal realm and we are not by ourselves. We have one another, but we have the forerunner, but we also have angels who are on assignment from Him. There’s a whole company behind us seeing that we see cross this finish line in spite of ourselves, in spite of the arrow tips, in spite of what we’ve done to others, in spite of our fears, in spite of our constant vision of our frailty, which I think is probably necessary. God has put everything into this, that you and I would cross that finish line.

What does it mean to God for a company to come across the finish line? I don’t think it’s any clearer than in the passage in the Book of Acts at Stephen’s martyrdom. Stephen had stood there

before men who were gnashing their teeth. He had given his witness and his testimony; he spared not a word. He spoke with what the scripture calls, parrhesia, that's an anointing; that's what Paul calls, "utterance". Jesus ministered and worked miracles according to the parrhesia of God, it was all over Him and that enabled Him. They gnashed their teeth and they dragged Him out of the building and they dragged him over to the stoning pit and there, they started throwing stones at him and started hitting him. The last words that he said were, as he looked up, 'I see the Son of Man standing at the right hand of the throne of God.' That caused them to go into a fury and just within a few stones later, he entered in and crossed the finish line and entered into glory. 'I see the Son of Man standing at the right hand of the throne of God.' This is what this means to me: Jesus was seated at the right hand of God. Could it be that the Lord Jesus stood as he witnessed this man, Stephen, about to cross through and break the tape at the end of the race, and he had run the race well, and he was well-pleasing unto Him.

This one song starts out, and I didn't have time to look up the words, says, "Can it be that my God laying hold of an ephod and a sword, that my God would stand for me? He stood for Stephen. I believe He stood for every one of the ones in the book of Hebrews, that have run this race. I believe He is standing, and a whole company is around us, both witnessing and the company of the angels.

Brethren, I believe with all my heart, we are on the last lap of the race. I don't know when the final one is. If you project it in literal two days—in literal 2,000 year days—Jesus was somewhere around 31, 32, 33 A.D. when He was brought out of the temple—out of the grave when you look at it that way. Could it be 2030, 2031, 2032, could it be longer? Could it be sooner? We just happen to be in the frame because, 'After two days, I will raise you up.' That was spoken by the Prototype, Himself. The Prototype was never given in vain; He will see many, many sons come forth in the totality of His likeness. And they will bear that same testimony to all of the nations of the earth and will say, 'If He did it for us, He can do it for you.'

So, brethren, I'm glad not to be running this race alone. I'm glad for the presence of the Lord. I'm glad for the presence of every help in the unseen realm, and am I glad for your presence and for your company. You all mean everything to Nancy and me. The Lord bless you greatly in Jesus' name, Amen.