

Singing the Psalms of Ascent

As Mountains on the Mountain

Second Lent Reflection: **Psalm 125**

March 8, 2020

What Can Be Shaken

Coronavirus, stock market, Tennessee tornadoes

Common images of transitoriness: cloud, mist, smoke, leaf, flower, chaff

Common images of permanence: the earth itself, mountains: **Psalm 65:6; 104:5; 119:90**

The deep longing in the human being for stable footing, the unshakeable ground

The futility of looking for an unshakeable anchor among all things made

Economics, physics, politics, relationships, geography, history

Reaction 1: resting in the illusion of permanence

Reaction 2: abandoning to the hedonism of the moment

Reaction 3: live with a low-grade constant fear of the future

Psalm 125

God is the unshakeable anchor, greater than the mountains: **vs. 2; Psalm 75:3; 90:2; 97:5; 102:25,26**

Trust in God fuses you to that unshakeable reality: **vs. 1**

God is seen as a religious idea in a post-Enlightenment world that is unprovable, vacuous

Think of God like gravity: an unseen but irrefutable reality

The rule of evil (scepter of the wicked) will have no place to rest, alight, settle **v.3**

Anti-God stuff (thinking/behaving contrary to God's reality) is like chaff: **Psalm 1:4; Isaiah 29:5-9**

Crooked path takers (traitors) and evildoers (foreign occupiers) will be lead away, exiled **v. 5**

God stuff (thinking/behaving according to God's reality) results in permanence: **v. 4**

Jesus: the wise man built his house upon the rock! **Matthew 7:24-27**

Both in the mind of God and in the economy of lasting things

God not remembering our sins--a statement on the very nature of what lasts: **Isaiah 43:25**

Example of the woman who anointed Jesus feet with oil: **Matthew 26:13**

The image of the kings bringing in treasures to the new Jerusalem: **Rev 21:24,26**

CS Lewis' *Great Divorce*, the realness of heaven, and the infinitesimal size of hell

Becoming Mountains on the Mountain: Hebrews 12:20-29

Our action in a shaking world is worship the unshakeable God with awe and reverence

This is the antidote to idolatry (which is putting our trust in anything shakeable)

True worship results in us becoming like God: **2 Cor 3:18**

The image of God is fully actualized in us as we become mountain-like, unmovable, anchors

Abiding forever: **Psalm 125:1; 1 John 2:17**

Peace be upon Israel: **v.5** it is indeed well for a God-trusting, God-worshipping people: **Psalm 46**

Journey Signs: Lament as a Map > Wrapped in the Coat of God's Keeping > Our Feet on a Rock >