

Shaken pt 1: A New City

Intro:

- I love motorcycles and have owned a couple
- when you ride THINGS HIT YOUR FACE
 - I had all the typical stuff, bugs, small little pebbles....
 - my dad told me about a time he took a June Bug in the forehead.....
 - ROOMMATE who was cruising down a rural highway in the dark and his bike startled some geese that then flew across the road
 - he looked up just in time to take a goose in the face at highway speed
 - that will shake you!!!! He didn't think he would be able to hold on and keep from crashing, but miraculously he did**
- Sometimes when life hits you its small bugs, annoying things, uncomfortable things,,*
- sometimes it's June bug, it hurts,,,,,*
- sometimes it's a goose, enough to shake you*

-The apostle Peter wrote the book of 1 Peter to Christians who were scattered by persecution.

- life was not easy for Jesus followers at that time in history
- believers were being blackballed economically and socially.....
- believers were being wrongly accused of things in society, and were the target of public dislike
- believers were arrested,,, imprisoned,,,, beaten,,, even killed
- Many were feeling Shaken, by it all.

-Peter is writing to these Shaken Believers as a person who had been shaken himself.

- Peter was normally self-assured, and quick to insert himself in most situations
- He actually said "even if everyone betrays you Jesus I will die with you"
- then hours later he **denied knowing Jesus 3 times!**

- Peter thought: his faith was solid,,,, he was courageous,,,,, he was unshakeable.
- when things got hard, Peter realized he was not as solid as he thought
- simply put, Peter was shaken**
- It surprised and it saddened Peter that he was Shaken.

- God is Merciful and he still used Peter's life to accomplish great things.
- in fact these moments when Peter himself was shaken,,, deepened his Compassion for others who were shaken

-and he was able then to show us a way forward even when we are not flawless or fearless

-The theme of 1 Peter is how to be Steadfast in Shaky times.

-1 Peter 1:3-5 In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

The true hope of the Christian Church is A Whole New World, not just new stuff in this world.

-In our era so much of our christian thought and concern has been focused on this life and this world.

-so much focus on how to have blessing and fullness now

-so much of that is good and useful

*-God want to bless and prosper us. **BUT***

-The main focus of the work of Jesus was not to REINSERT BLESSING in this life and this age.

-The blessing and fullness Jesus achieved is primarily focused on the world and reality that will be unveiled in the age to come.

-Revelation 21:1-5 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

-in 1 Peter we are told that our real reward is being held for us in heaven

-what we see described here in Rev. 21 is the moment Heaven and Earth REUNITE

-In that moment the reward kept in heaven Invades the Earth and transforms it

-The central work of Jesus has always been inviting us into a whole new world that begins when this world ends for us.

-Illustration: A Broken City and a New City

-Imagine a vast and amazing city, it is ages old,,, with a proud history

-but somewhere along the way the city was INFILTRATED AND TAKEN OVER by a harsh and crooked DICTATOR

- he surrounded himself with dangerous crooked officials and a brutal army
- this government regularly seizes the belongings and wealth produced by the people living and working in the city

- the people live precarious lives:

- never knowing when what they have will be stolen by bandits
- never knowing how much crooked generals will extort
- never knowing how much their government will just take from them
- people are often sick and dying with no help from their government
- people live in fear because crime is out of control because the government only enforces law and order where it benefits them

-Imagine outside of the city lives a Benevolent Benefactor, a Loving Lord who wants to help the people in the city.

- it turns out that this benevolent benefactor actually Established and built this city AGES AGO

- he sends representatives into the city with Goods, supplies, and help for the people but much is embezzled by the government and army,,, most of whatever is left after embezzlement, is stolen by Lawless Residents in the city

- as the years go by the Benevolent Benefactor tries every means possible of sending help, blessing, and good resources into the city,,, but there is little to show for it

- so the Benevolent Benefactor embraces a new strategy : **he builds a New City just beyond the border of the original city.**

- BUT, this new city requires personal invitation from the Benefactor himself to enter, in fact only the Son of the Benefactor is able to Vouch for people in such a way that his Father lets them in,,,, so without personally knowing the Son, entrance in the new city is not possible.**

- Because this new city is safe and secure the Benefactor is able to invest everything he has in making this city a flawless, rich, and eternal home for people.

- So the approach of the Benevolent Benefactor has shifted entirely. He continues to send Representatives into the Old City, but now his primary focus is Inviting those in the Old City to come and Live in the New City.

- all of the wealth, the reward and the riches that the Benefactor would love to send to his people who are still in the Old City,,,, He simply Now Sends it Ahead of them into the New City

- there it will be absolutely safe

- there it will not be stolen, worn out, perverted, or used up

- the benefit of the Resources given by the Benefactor to the Residents of the New City will never wear out!**

- For most who accept the Invitation into the New City there is an Intervening period of time they must wait before they can cross the border from the Old City into the New.

-So in the meantime the residents of the Old City, who are ultimately bound for the New City, have learned to Find Each other and Band Together to make the most of their time in the Old City

-they love and encourage each other

-they share their resources with each other

-and they devote themselves to Encouraging their fellow Old City Residents to Accept the Invitation of the Benefactor, and to meet the SON,, so they to can come into the New City one day as well

-There are times even in the Old City when the residents experience some blessing and good.

-usually it is simply because of each other.....

-but sometimes the Benefactor does slip little things past the dictator and his armies

-But as good as those slipped blessings are they don't even compare to what is stored up and waiting in the New City.

-Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have been given birth into an entirely different hope.

-a hope that is unfading, unspoiling, and kept safe from every kind of loss

-a hope not limited by this current world,,,, our hope is in another world entirely

-That was the first encouragement given by Peter to those who feel shaken in this world.

-1 Peter 1:6-9 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

There is only one thing we get to take with us from this city into the new city.

-Peter says that these Christians have suffered many trials and were going to suffer even more.

-he is not minimizing it or downplaying it

-But then Peter takes the focus off the actual loss caused by the trials.

-sure you will lose : stuff, money, influence, jobs, health, even life

-but the stuff you lose pales in comparison to what you gain

-Peter compares the Pressure of the Suffering to Gold Being Refined in Fire.
-with Refining Fire,,, the hotter the fire gets the more the impurities and extras are burned out
-the finished result after the refining fire is a purer, more beautiful, and more valuable Gold

-Peter is reminding us here of something we know is true but we still don't like to think about it.

-Suffering Refines Us,,, It grows us,,,, deepens & strengthens us.

-Peter says, the Refining causes Jesus to be revealed in us.

-Do you wanna know what I personally realize every time I go through any form of trial or suffering.

-on the back side of it, my first thought is always that I have not been compassionate enough with others in the past

-i think about all the times people share things with me that and I barely reacted to,,,, or just didn't really think that much about it after they told me,,,,,

-NOW that I have suffered it,,, I realize how big of a thing it is,,, and I wish I had paid more attention to that other person as they suffered it

-I have not suffered much compared to many, but through every trial, the love, compassion, and wisdom of God is made more Concentrated in me.

-some of the contaminants and filler in me, are burned off by the refining fire

-Jesus is Increasingly Revealed in me.....

-So Peter is saying: *“keep your hope in the city that is to come, and in the hard times, we have now, just know the junk and filler are being burned off, exposing what is left to be increasingly pure gold.”*

-When you leave this city for the new city, the only thing you bring with you is *who you have become.*

-and God is very interested in making that all it can be

-Trials will Come. But they will ultimately result in: praise, honor, and glory as Jesus is increasingly revealed in you.

-1 Peter 1:12 Even angels long to look into these things.

Even though they are attained through Trial, there are things about you that even Angels are Enamored by.

-What is eternally done **for you** in the “New City” was bought with the blood of Jesus.

-And what is being done **in you** now is being brought to pass through trial.

-But having said all of that:

-looking at the life awaiting you in the NEW CITY

-looking at the Beauty that God is creating in you even through struggle

-even Angels are AWESTRUCK looking in at what God is up to,,, IN YOU

-From their perspective the Angels can see what is being done in you now.

-they can see the MAGNIFICENCE of what awaits you in the age to come

-and they can see the CRAZY BEAUTIFUL way God Loves you

-they are putting the pieces together thinking about what it's going to be like when all this finally and fully come together

-And all they can think about is how lucky you are to be you.

-Quote: Warren Wiersbe: this hope we have does not put us in a rocking chair where we complacently wait for the return. It puts us in the marketplace and on the battlefield and keeps us going **when burdens are heavy and battles are hard. Hope is not a sedative, it's a shot of adrenaline.**