

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE REVELATION OF GOD

8 May 2022

Chapter 12:18-29

Verse of the Day:

For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:29)



Review: Who, What, When, Where, & Why?

What's Going On Here

In the end of Chapter 12, Hebrews moves onto a summary of the past several chapters and themes as we draw closer to the end of the Letter. Here again we compare the events that happened at Mount Sinai with the events that have happened with the coming of Christ. Our lives and our outlook have changed. It has gone from law to grace. From fearful intimidation to positive encouragement. We rejoice in God as our Savior, because he saved us with His awesome power and secured us through all the foundation and glory of God in Jesus that cannot be shaken or destroyed.

A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

v18-20: Exodus 19:9–20 & 20:18–21

v22: Zion is used poetically throughout the Bible to refer to Jerusalem or the Temple mount, but word originally meant a defensible place. (2 Sam 5:6–7)

v22: When are some concrete times where this is true?

v18-24: Explain the contrast between Mount Sinai (12:18–21) and Mount Zion (12:22–24).

v24: c.f. Hebrews 8:6; 9:11–15; 10:19–22

v26-27: c.f. Haggai 2:4–9

v28: How do we worship in an acceptable way?

v28-29: What are the aspects of the Kingdom that cannot be shaken? How does this relate to the ways in God a consuming fire? (c.f. 1 Cor 3:10–15; 2 Th 1:5–10 & 2 Peter 3:7–13)