

The Book of Hebrews

Chapter 12: verses 22-29 - Pastor Charles A. Hall – January 19th, 2023

Chapter 12 This chapter deals with exhortation, perseverance, and sanctification. The author exhorts and encourage the believers to press forward, and not give up, nor turn back for the rewards are too great. The author instructs the readers to persevere, which means to be willing to endure hardship, trials, and persecution without quitting or giving up, but rather continuing no matter what the cost. The author further encourages the readers to sanctify themselves, or set themselves aside from the influence of the world, which will hinder their ability to run and finish the race in victory.

22. But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

- This verse is a follow on from prior verses where Moses and the Israelites have come to Mt Sinai where God spoke with them from the mountain on earth, however they did not obey, this time God refused to speak with them, but spoke directly to Moses who then spoke with the people. In this verse God gives a pictorial view, of who He is, and His power from Mt Zion. Mt Zion represents the mount of God, His dwelling Place, the city of God, and the sanctuary of God, a new heavenly Jerusalem. Even though the people could not see God, they knew they were in the presence of the Living God, the New Jerusalem, and angels that were to many to count. The angels included Michael the archangel and the highest in the order of angels, and Gabriel the messenger angel of God. Included in the angels are the presence of the cherubim who guard God's holiness, and the Seraphim who guard the alter, and delivered God's judgment.

23. To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

- This verse appears to be speaking to the church of God, those who have accepted His blood sacrifice, and their names are now written in the lambs book of life, who are now come before the God the judge of all. The spirit of just men seem to represent the old testament patriots who have gone on before us.
 - **James 1:18**

24. And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

- As a follow on from the prior verse, believers now stand before Jesus the mediator (facilitator, arbitrator, and intermediary) between humanity and God. And He speaks with more authority than anyone on earth.

25. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

- This verse references the essence of the fifth warning to the Israelite, that they did not hear God, nor obeyed Him when He spoke from the earth, and were punished, then how much more severe is the punishment if they refuse to hear and disobey Him that now speak from Heaven!

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26. Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

- In this verse the Israelites are reminded that the voice of God shook the earth when he spoke with them from Mt Sinai earlier, but now it is different, this time He promised to shake both earth and heaven when He speaks to them through Moses from Heaven!

27. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

- The words in the prior verse “Yet once more” means that this time God will not only shake but removed those things that were shook when He spoke earlier from earth, however the things not shaken will remain. This signifies the second coming of Jesus Christ, when the earth and heaven will be destroyed and a new heaven and new earth will come force.

Revelation 21:1-6

28. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear;

- As a result of the prior verse we are receiving a new Kingdom, which cannot be removed, let us be kind and holy, that we might serve God in an acceptable way with reverence, (devotion and respect), and Godly fear (which is the beginning of Knowledge, which produces understanding and wisdom).
 - **Hebrews 13:15**

29. For our God is a consuming fire.

- This verse reminds us of the type of God we serve; He is a God bigger than life itself, a God that has all power in His hand, a God that creates, and a God that can destroy, and He is also a God of Love and compassion full of grace and mercy!