

# Consuming Fire

Hebrews 12: 28,29



# The Book to the Hebrews

- authorship
- several doctrines: the Melchizedek Priesthood, the High Priest of Christ, the New Covenant, and the typology of the offerings and feasts in Leviticus
- Greek
- OT quotes
- fifth Gospel

# The Book to the Hebrews

- Main message:

Despite the perceived advantages, never let difficulties convince you to return to the religion you embraced before you were saved.

# Hebrews

## Christ's Superiority over Judaism as High Priest

Superiority in His Person to...			Superiority in His Priestly Work to...					Endurance Through Faith					
1:1—4:13			4:14—10:18					10:19—13:25					
Prophets 1:1-3	Angels 1:4— 2:18	Moses 3:1— 4:13	Aaron 4:14— 6:20	Melch. 7	Old Cov. 8	Taber- nacle 9:1-10	Sacri- fices 9:11— 10:18	Will- ful Sin 10:19- 39	Models 11:1— 12:3	Endure as Sons 12:4- 13	Ethics 12:14- 17	Ignori ng God 12:18- 29	Exhor 13
Christ's Majesty			Christ's Ministry					Christian's Manifestation					
Theology							Practice						

Unknown Author, Recipients, Origin, and Destination!

# Hebrews

## Christ's Superiority over Judaism as High Priest

Superiority in His Person to...			Superiority in His Priestly Work to...					Endurance Through Faith					
1:1—4:13			4:14—10:18					10:19—13:25					
Prophets 1:1-3	Angels 1:4— 2:18	Moses 3:1— 4:13	Aaron 4:14— 6:20	Melch. 7	Old Cov. 8	Taber- nacle 9:1-10	Sacri- fices 9:11— 10:18	Will- ful Sin 10:19- 39	Models 11:1— 12:3	Endure as Sons 12:4- 13	Ethics 12:14- 17	Ignori ng God 12:18- 29	Exhor 13
Christ's Majesty			Christ's Ministry					Christian's Manifestation					
Theology							Practice						

Unknown Author, Recipients, Origin, and Destination!

AD 67-68

# Today's Text (Heb 12: 28-29) in Context (Hebrews 12:14-29)

*14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.*



# Today's Text (Heb 12: 28-29) in Context (Hebrews 12:14-29)

*18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."*



# Today's Text (Heb 12: 28-29) in Context (Hebrews 12:14-29)

*22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*



# Today's Text (Heb 12: 28-29) in Context (Hebrews 12:14-29)

*25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.*



# Today's Text (Heb 12: 28-29) in Context (Hebrews 12:14-29)

*28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."*

# Today's Text (Heb 12: 28-29) in Context (Hebrews 12:14-29)

*Therefore,*

*since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,*

*let us be thankful, and*

*so*

*worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,*

*for*

*our “God is a consuming fire.”*

# Structure of Hebrews 12: 14-29

<i>v.28a Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken</i>	<i>v. 22-24</i>
<i>v.28b let us be thankful</i>	<i>v.14-17</i>
<i>v.28c and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe</i>	<i>v.18-21</i>
<i>v.29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”</i>	<i>v.25-27</i>

# Structure of Hebrews 12: 14-29

v.28a <i>Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken</i>	<b>Our Inheritance</b>
v.28b <i>let us be thankful</i>	<b>Our Gratitude</b>
v.28c <i>and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe</i>	<b>Our Worship</b>
v.29 <i>for our “God is a consuming fire.”</i>	<b>Our Obedience</b>

# Recipients of Book of Hebrews

- Jewish Christians
- Roman yoke (Romans rule)-social injustice
- Political unrest- Zealot terrorism
- Social unrest
- Economic unrest
- Religious unrest (impending destruction of Jerusalem)
- Illness, cancer, family conflict, relationship problems

# Our Inheritance

v.28a *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken*



- USA- greatest economic and military power
- China-economic powerhouse
- Roman Empire
- Empire of Alexander the Great
- Mongol's Empire

# Our Inheritance

v.28a *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken*

v. 22-24

- you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.
- You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,
- to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.
- You have come to God, the judge of all men,
- to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,
- to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and
- to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

# Our Gratitude

v.28b *let us be thankful*



The words **let us be thankful**  
may be rendered

“let us have [or, -obtain] grace”  
(*echōmen charin*)

reference to the resources of  
grace available from the great  
High Priest

# Our Gratitude

*v.28b let us be thankful*

v.14-17

- Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- See to it that no one misses the grace of God and
- that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

# Our Worship

*v.28c and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe*

v.18-21

- You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire;
- to darkness, gloom and storm;
- to a trumpet blast or
- to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.”
- The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

Mount Sinai

# Our Worship

*v.28c and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe*



# Our Obedience

v.29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”

v.25-27

*25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” 27 The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.*

# Our Obedience

v.29 for our *“God is a consuming fire.”*

## ■ True Christians do not lose their salvation

### ■ Calvinism

- Teaching of John Calvin, Reformed and Presbyterian churches, Charles Hodge, Arthur Pink
- God’s sovereignty elects to salvation and helps believers preserves in faith until death
- Eternally secure in their salvation

### ■ Arminian

- Teaching of Jacob Arminius, John Wesley, Methodists, Pentecostals
- God elects those whose free will accepts Christ and preserves them unless they lose faith
- Not secure in their salvation because no one knows if he or she will preserve

# Our Obedience

v.29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”

- True Christians do not lose their salvation
- Christians will suffer the consequences of disobedience to God
  - Consequence of sinful actions
  - God’s discipline (Heb 12:1-13)
    - Realisation that we are God’s children from enduring God’s discipline (12:4-9)
    - Righteousness results from enduring God’s discipline (12:10-11)
    - Reassurance and spiritual strength results from enduring God’s discipline (12:12-13)

# Our Obedience

v.29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”

- True Christians do not lose their salvation
- Christians will suffer the consequences of disobedience to God
- God is a ‘jealous’ God

Deu 4: 23-34

*23 Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. 24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

# Our Obedience

*v.29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”*

- True Christians do not lose their salvation
- Christians will suffer the consequences of disobedience to God
- God is a ‘jealous’ God

# Our Obedience

v.29 for our *“God is a consuming fire.”*

- True Christians do not lose their salvation
- Christians will suffer the consequences of disobedience to God
- God is a ‘jealous’ God
- Types of idolatry
  - Worship of Money (Mammoth)
  - Worship of our own strength
  - Worship of God’s gift rather than God himself
  - Worship of false teachers and teachings

# Our Obedience

v.29 for our *“God is a consuming fire.”*



# Lessons for us (Heb 12: 28-29)



- Remember our inheritance
- Be grateful
- Worship God
- Obey God

# Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion

	Mt. Sinai	Mt. Zion
Reality	“You have not come to...”(v.18a)	“You have come to...”(v.22a) as if heaven is a present reality
Nature	Mountain of fire and darkness (v.18b)	City of perfection (v.22b)
Mood	Gloom (v.18)	Joy (v.22)
Privileges	Fear even touching Sinai (v.20)	Names recorded in heaven(firstborn) (v.23)
Location	Earth (v.25-26)	Heaven (v.22,25)
Covenant	Old/Mosaic (v.21)	New (v.24)
Atoning blood	None was yet shed (v.20)	Perfect atonement (v.24)
Participants	Jews under the law (v.25)	God (v.21,23b) Angels (v.22) Church (v.23a) OT saints (v.23c) Jesus (v.24)
Listening	Ask not to hear God (v.19b)	Should listen to God speaking (v.25)
Application	Never turn back to your past religion (v.25)	Press on to your future reward with thanks and worship (v.28b-29)



**Move on, don't look back**



**1. Make up your  
mind to be  
happy.  
Learn to find  
pleasure in simple  
things.**





✧

**2. Make the best  
of your  
circumstances.  
No one has  
everything, and  
everyone has  
something  
Of sorrow  
intermingled  
with gladness of  
life.  
The trick is To  
make the  
laughter  
outweigh the  
tears.**

✧



**3. Don't take yourself too seriously. Don't think that somehow you should be protected From misfortune that befalls other people.**



**4. You can't please everybody. Don't let criticism worry you.**





**5. Don't let your  
neighbor set  
your standards.  
Be yourself.**





**6. Do the things  
you enjoy doing  
but stay out of  
debt.**

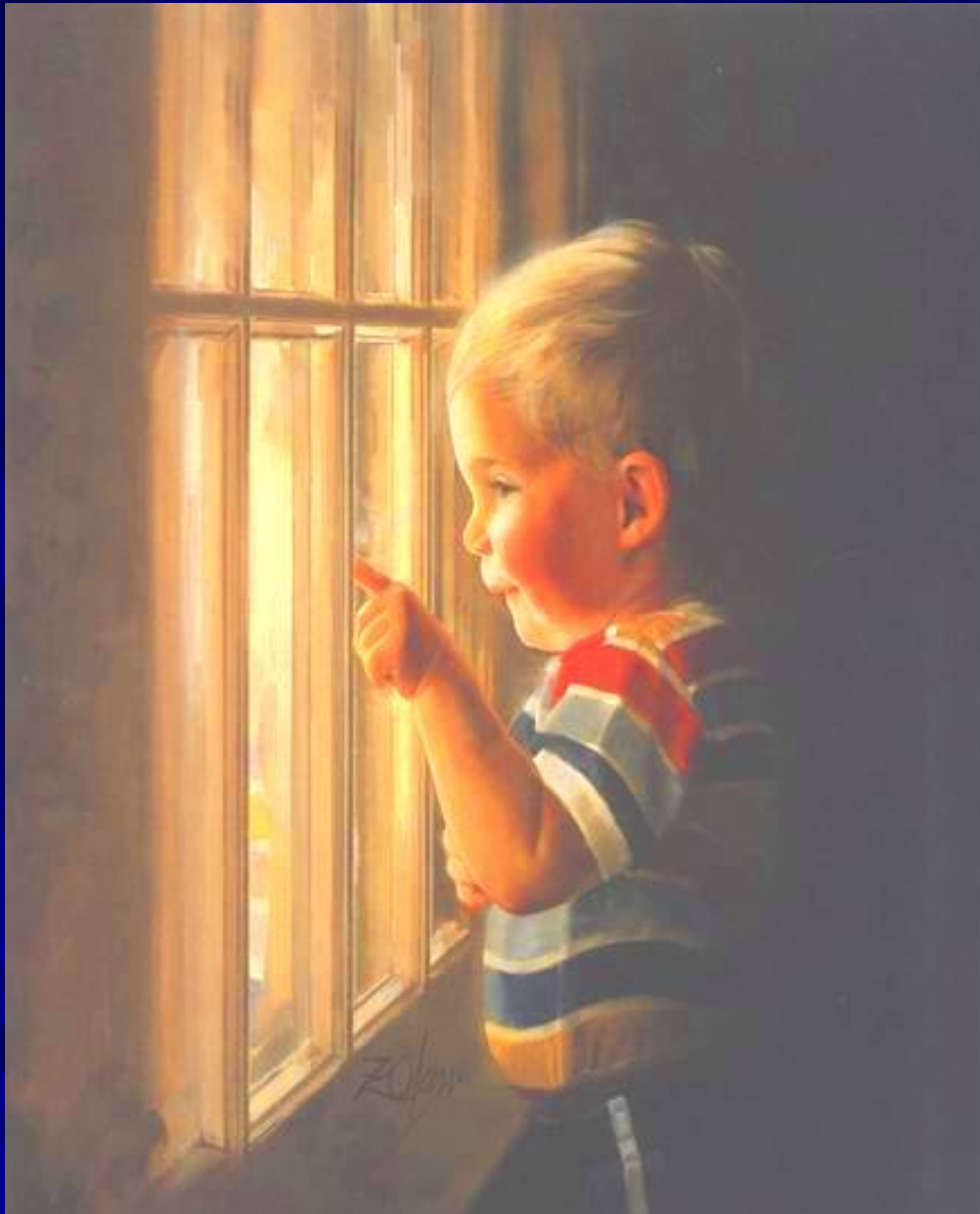




**7. Never borrow  
trouble.**

**Imaginary  
things are  
harder to bear  
than real ones.**





8. Since hate  
poisons the soul, do  
not cherish jealousy,  
Avoid people who  
make you unhappy.





**9. Have many interests. If you can't travel, read about new places.**





**10. Don't hold postmortems.**

**Don't spend your time brooding over sorrows or mistakes.**

**Don't be one who never gets over things.**



**11. Do what  
you can for  
those less  
fortunate than  
yourself.**





**12. Keep busy at something.**

**A busy person never  
has time  
To be unhappy.**



## **Sermon statement**

In our busy life, especially in difficult times, there is a tendency for us to ignore God and all that God has given us. We need to re-examine ourselves and make sure we are being obedience to God. Then all the good things that God has given us will be meaningful.

