

Series: Hebrews

Lesson #58

Title: **See That Ye Refuse Not Him**

Scripture: Hebrews 12: 25-29

Date: 11-30-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Throughout the book of Hebrews the Holy Spirit has exalted Christ and the covenant made between the triune God in Mt. Zion, over Moses and the covenant made with man from Mt. Sinai. In Christ our Lord the new covenant is everlasting, a covenant of free grace, and of heavenly, spiritual blessings. Through Moses the old covenant was temporary, a covenant of works, which spoke of only earthly, temporal blessings. Christ speaks of salvation given to all who Christ represented. Moses spoke of a debt owed by all who Adam represented. It is easy to see that Christ and the new covenant is far better than Moses and the old covenant. Therefore, throughout the book of Hebrews we are urged to hear Christ, to heed Christ, to walk in Christ and to look no more to Moses, to the law, to ourselves, but away to Christ who is the end of the law for righteousness to all who believe. For in Christ the believer is made the righteousness of God.

Last time we considered this passage: **Hebrews 12: 18: For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19: And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21: And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) 22: But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 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, 24: And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.**

Now seeing that believers have come to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to his blood, that speaketh better things than that of Abel--we read: **Hebrews 12: 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: 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. 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. 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: 29: For our God *is* a consuming fire.**

Hebrews 12: 25: See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.

Proposal: The Holy Spirit continues with the main purpose of the whole book, which is to urge the believer unto perseverance in the faith which believes on Christ as we run the course set before us, and to steadily resist the temptation to lapse back into the law. For a sinner, once enlightened, once presented with the doctrine of Christ, turning from Christ back to the law is apostasy. There is no recovery from such sin. So this word can not be expressed too much: **Hebrews 12: 25: See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.**

Divisions: I. How God has spoken and how God continues to speak?; II. The result of God speaking?; III. What is it that God speaketh?

This is both amazing and commanding of our attention--our Lord Jesus Christ, God our Savior--speaketh. It does not say "spoke" but "speaketh." Be sure you get this, it is not only *the gospel* which he speaks that you refuse, but you refuse *him* who is the gospel.

Luke 10:16: He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

I. HOW HAS GOD SPOKEN? HOW DOES GOD CONTINUE TO SPEAK?

Hebrews 12: 25...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:

A. He has spoken on earth--Hebrews 12: 25:...For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth...

1. In the passage before this, we saw that God spoke from Mt. Sinai. Then God spoke by the law--the old covenant. The law was a word spoken by angels from atop that fiery Mt. Sinai. It was the word spoken by Moses to an earthly nation. Every transgressor received justice. Every person who despised Moses law died WITHOUT MERCY under 2 or 3 witnesses

2. They escaped not! A great number perished in the wilderness because they broke God's law by not trusting God alone--and they did not escape. **Hebrews 3: 16: For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17: But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18: And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19: So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.** In Isaiah's day the LORD God declared that a multitude were turned over to blindness because they willfully rejected the voice of the Lord. Throughout the time of that old covenant, any who transgressed against God's law, transgressed against God who spoke that law and none escaped

3. It is called "God speaking on earth" for this reason: It was an earthly covenant; it was spoken through Moses and the prophets (Christ not having come in the flesh); the law was in letter not in spirit; the letter of the law dealt in the fleshly external actions of men; the law was temporary, given to an earthly nation, promising only earthly rewards; the law was a shadow of good things to come but not the very image of the things for through the ceremony animals were offered, only ceremonial cleansing was obtained. The new covenant speaks far better things. But even those who refused God, when he spoke through that old covenant, did not escape. Therefore heed the exhortation!

Hebrews 12: 25...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:

A. How does God speak from heaven?

It began with God's blessing a people--**Ephesians 1: 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

B. God speaketh in his Son the Mediator of the covenant. Just as that earthly covenant was ordained in the hands of the mediator Moses, much more the eternal covenant was ordained in the hands of God's own Son--**Hebrews 8: 6: But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.**

Hebrews 9: 15: And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

So then you see we have not come to Mt. Sinai, to the old, earthly, covenant, not to Moses or one of the other prophets but **Hebrews 12: 24: And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel. 25: See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.**

C. This is the whole point of Hebrews, this is the whole point of the gospel we preach! Turn from yourself, for your law, for hearing the lies men tell, and see that ye refuse not him that speaketh! Read the following scriptures carefully:

Hebrews 1: 1: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son...

Hebrews 2: 1: Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip **2:** For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; **3:** How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;

Hebrews 3:12: Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. **13:** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 4:1: Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Hebrews 6:4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **5:** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **6:** If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

Hebrews 10:26: For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, **27:** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. **28:** He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: **29:** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 12:1: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **2:** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3:** For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:15: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

Matthew 17:5: While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Luke 10:16: He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

Christ is speaking this very hour through the Word of his Gospel as it is read and heard. Christ is speaking by His Spirit into the hearts of his people. Christ is speaking through his ambassadors. Christ continues to speak every hour of every day. **See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.** Be sure you get this, it is not only that which he speaks that you refuse, but you refuse him who speaks

HOW DO WE REFUSE HIM THAT SPEAKETH? Here are 5 ways sinner's refuse him that speaketh:

1. By neglecting to read daily and diligently the Scriptures through which He speaks.
2. By failing to attend public preaching where His Word is faithfully set forth.
3. By failing to comply with the terms of His Gospel and yield ourselves unto His authority.
4. By forsaking the Narrow Way of His commandments and going back again to the world.
5. By abandoning the truth for error--for will-worship, sanctification by your obedience to the law rather than by Christ the Sanctifier and the Word of his grace.

II. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF WHAT GOD SPEAKETH?

Hebrews 12: 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. 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.

Hebrews 12: 26: Whose voice then shook the earth:--

A. This speaks of Mt. Sinai. God shook the earth then:

Exodus 19:18: And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

Hebrews 12: 18: For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19: And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

B. But even greater shaking took place when Christ brought in everlasting righteousness.

Hebrews 12: 26...but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

The Hebrew writer is encouraging brethren because of what Christ has done and so this speaks primarily to the finished work of Christ at Calvary. That is the context of the passage before us and that was the context of the passage in Haggai from where this scripture is quoted:

1. During Haggai's day, the first temple had been destroyed and the second temple was being built. The people were looking at only the external building and because they looked at only the external they mourned greatly. And the Lord said this to his governor and his priest:

Haggai 2: 3: Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? 4: Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

The same encouragement is being given to believers in Hebrews--the Lord says to his kings and his priests on earth--believers--**yet now be strong, saith the Lord, and work**--that is, run the race set before you, looking to Christ the Author and Finisher of faith--our work is this: **hear ye him**--here is the encouragement--**For I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts.**

2. Now here is this verse we have quoted in Hebrews: **Haggai 2:6: For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; 7: And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. 8: The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. 9: The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.**

- **V7: The Desire of all nations**--is Christ Jesus the Son of God, the King and Savior of a people chosen out of all nations
- **V7: This house**--was not that second temple but the Household of the LORD, his church, the temple in which he dwells.
- **V7: I will fill this house with glory**--the glory of God's spiritual house is Christ Jesus the Son of God--our All and in All.
- **V8: The silver is mine and the gold is mine**--the glory of my spiritual house shall not be the glory of earthly silver and gold, but the glory of my house shall be my glory--*the glory is mine and the glory is mine*--the unsearchable riches of Christ is the glory of this house.
- **V9: Therefore, the glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former** and in the Lord's spiritual house and in each individual believer who is the temple of the living God--**will I give peace.**

3. The Lord Jesus Christ shook the heavens and the earth when he accomplished salvation for his people, when he cried out, "It is finished."

- On earth--the veil which blocked the holies of holies was rent from top to bottom and it was discovered to all present that the Ark and the Mercy Seat were no longer in the earth
- In heaven--a new and living way was opened through the veil--that new and living way is Christ risen to God's right hand in whom we have boldness to enter the holiest of holies in heaven through his blood.
- Here is the shaking of heaven and earth: Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to all who believe: before God in heaven in Christ the believer is the righteousness of God; before men on earth in Christ the believer has fulfilled the whole law of God. God will not charge his people in heaven; and on earth--who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect it is Christ that died yea rather is risen again seated at God's right hand.
- Those men who hated Christ, who loved their yoke of the law, cried out against the brethren who preached this gospel of salvation in Christ saying, Acts 17: 6: (the brethren we called) **These that have turned the world upside down...**

Hebrews 8:13: In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

4. By what Christ accomplished for us and what Christ accomplishes in us this is what happens: **Haggai 2:22: And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.**

The strength of the heathen kingdoms, the heathen church, is its slaves, its captives, kept under the shackles and whip of strict taskmasters--but Christ has freed us, removed the curse of the law, removed sin, removed death and in removing those things has bound Satan because he has taken away his only power, he has removed the old covenant, removed the law, removed the kingdoms of men, the chariots and their riders, he does so **BY THE SWORD OF** our brethren--by the gospel of Christ Jesus the Lord--so that for the believer there is but one kingdom, one Lord, one faith, one baptism...**Romans 6: 7: For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8: Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10: For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

III. WHAT IS IT THAT GOD SPEAKETH TO YOU, BELIEVER?

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

A. That which you have been freely given in Christ is spiritual and eternal and cannot be moved:

- Eternal redemption
- Eternal salvation
- Eternal inheritance
- Eternal glory
- Eternal life

Deuteronomy 33:27: The eternal God *is thy* refuge, and underneath *are* the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy *them*.

B. Let us have grace, Let us have Christ

- Let us hear Christ
- Let us believe on Christ
- Let us follow Christ
- **Whereby we serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear** (there is no other way to truly serve God than by faith in Christ who served him perfectly)
- **For our God is a consuming fire**--this is a great joy to the believer--hedged about and protected from all our enemies; while this is a great warning to all who refuse to hear the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- The old covenant was connected with Sinai, the new covenant brings us unto heavens Mt. Zion (12:18-24);
- The old covenant was inaugurated by Moses, the everlasting covenant by the Son of God;
- The old covenant was God speaking "on earth," the everlasting covenant is God speaking "from heaven;"
- The old covenant "shook the earth" only; the new covenant shakes both earth and "heaven" itself (12:26);
- The old covenant is "removed"; the new covenant is everlasting. (12:27);
- Therefore, HEAR the Son!