

Our God is a Consuming Fire

Sermon 50 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 12:18-29

Intro: v. 29

Verse 29 is the key passage that ties everything together in these 12 verses.

Our God IS a consuming fire.

Deut. 4:23-24

Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. “For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.”

God’s Self-description – Exodus 20:4-6; 34:5-8

I. The Historical Incident -- Meeting with God

Exodus 19:1-19 – Exodus 20:18-19

This was fire and smoke and thick darkness.

This was the earth shaking and the people quaking in fear.

The Children of Israel were fearful they were going to be destroyed.

They came to that mountain.

As Christians, we do not come to that mountain. **Heb. 12:18a**

II. The Mountain We Have NOT Come to: Heb. 12:18-21

We have come to a better mountain.

Messiah had come and nothing had changed in physical Israel!!!!

We are not probably not tempted to abandon Christ and return to Jewish ritual worship.

But, we may be tempted to try and please God by our own works.

III. The Mountain We Have Come to: 22-29

1. Mt. Zion

Mt. Zion (New Covenant) is so much better than Sinai (Mosaic Covenant)

Sinai was located in a dry barren desert.

Mt. Zion was located in the midst of a land flowing with milk and honey.

Sinai was ugly, barren, even terrifying,

Mt. Zion, in Scripture, is called “the joy of the whole earth.”

God was only on **Mt. Sinai** for a brief period of time.

The Scripture tells us **God dwells in Zion** – forever.

2. **City of the living God --- Jerusalem on Earth (spiritually)**

3. **The heavenly Jerusalem – Rev. 21:9-14; 22-27**

There is continuity between what is “now” and what is to come.

4. **An innumerable company of Angels**

Literally, a "*myriad*" of angels. In Greek, *urias* was an indefinite number. It literally meant ten-thousand, but it was used very much like we say “millions and millions”.

On Sinai the Angels blew loud, unearthly blasts from their shofers.

In Zion, the Angels gather with the Saints to praise Jehovah.

On Sinai, the Angels were part of the fearsome, unapproachable sight.

In Zion, the Angels gather in a festive celebration.

5. **The General Assembly and church of the firstborn**

Christ is often called “the firstborn”. *protokos*

The word here is plural – *protokws* – the firstborn ones.

Only those who have been *born-again (born-from-above)* enter the kingdom of heaven.

6. **To the spirits of just men made perfect**

Those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and declared to be righteous because of HIS perfect righteousness.

“The souls of the just when separated from their bodies, do not wander up and down in this world, nor hover about the sepulchers where their bodies lie; nor are they detained in any purgatory, in order to their more perfect purification, nor do they simply fall asleep, *to awaken years later*, but do forthwith pass into glory, and are immediately with the Lord” John Flavel Works, Vol. III, p. 38 (see also Luke 23:43).

7. **To Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant v. 24**

Conclusion: Another warning: **12: 25-29** Similar to **10:28**

25-26 – Haggai 2:6 -- the end of all things.

27 – Isa. 34:4; 54:10; 65:17 (from reference Bible)

28 – The Comfort

Verse 29 – Our God is a consuming fire.