

Hebrews 12:1-29 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **v1-2**

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." **v3-6**

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate & not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, & we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits & live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. **v7-11**

Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. **v12-17**

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") **v18-21**

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just

men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. **v22-24**

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.. **v25-27**

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. **v28-29**

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Heb 12:7-13 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?...Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is impaired may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Heb 12:18-19 For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it **begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.**

1. What mountain is the author of Hebrews referring to (v18-19)?

2. What event is the author of Hebrews referring to (v18-19)?

Exodus 19:1-6 In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai...and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain. And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to...the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

v7-9 So Moses came & called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered together & said,

“All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord. And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, **that the people may hear when I speak with you**, and believe you forever.”

v10-13 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow... And let them be ready for the 3rd day. For on the 3rd day the Lord will come down upon **Mount Sinai** in the sight of all the people. **You shall set bounds for the people all around**, saying, ‘Take heed to yourselves that you **do not go up to the mountain or touch its base**. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.’ **When the trumpet sounds** long, they shall **come near the mountain**.”

v14-20 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people,... Then it came to pass on the 3rd day, in the morning, that there were **thunderings & lightnings, & a thick cloud on the mountain**; & the **sound of the trumpet was very loud**, so that **all the people who were in the camp trembled**. & Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, & **they stood at the foot of the mountain**. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, & God answered him by voice. Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

v21-25 And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down & warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish. Also let the priests who come near the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them.” But Moses said to the Lord, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, ‘Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.’ ” Then the Lord said to him, “Away! Get down and then come up, you & Aaron with you. But do not let the priests & the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest He break out against them.” So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: EXODUS 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

- **1** “You shall **have no other gods** before Me.
- **2** “You shall **not make** for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall **not bow down** to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third & fourth

generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

- 3 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.
- 4 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the 7th day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: ...For in six days the Lord made the heavens & the earth, the sea, & all that is in them, & rested the 7th day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day & hallowed it.
- 5 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.
- 6 “You shall not murder.
- 7 “You shall not commit adultery.
- 8 “You shall not steal.
- 9 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 10 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house;...your neighbor’s wife,...nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Exodus 20:18-19 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; & when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”

3. Why didn't the people want God to speak to them?

4. God speaking to them could have done what for their relationship with Him?

Exodus 33:11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

5. Not letting God speak to them did what for their relationship with Him?

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Isaiah 65:2 I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;

Exodus 20:20-21 And Moses said to the people, “Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.” So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

6. How did Moses try to encourage the people?

7. Why is being afraid of God not a good thing?

1John 4:17-19 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

8. Why is having the Fear of the Lord a good thing?

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

9. Moses told the people why they were there: Why? Why were we “there”?

Exodus 20:20-21 ...God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.”

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

2Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail the test. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.

10. After hearing Moses’ encouragement what did the people do? Why not good?

Exodus 20:20-21 ...So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

Zephaniah 3:1-4 Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, To the oppressing city! She has not obeyed His voice, She has not received correction; She has not trusted in the Lord, She has not drawn near to her God.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Heb 10:21-23 and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

11. God was drawing Israel to Himself: Did they reciprocate? Who did? He’s Called?

Exodus 33:11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

12. God is drawing all people to Himself: Two ways people can respond?

John 12:31-33 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I {Christ}, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

John 1:10-13 ...He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:18-21 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

BACK TO EXODUS

Exodus 32:1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain [hearing from God], the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

13. The people did not want to hear from God, they wanted to hear from man. But what happened when that man was not there to speak to them?

14. If they were listening to God like Moses, would they have had time to rebel/sin?

15. The people said they would do the things God wanted, but did they?

Exodus 19:7-8 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and [b]laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

16. What is the problem if we just hear words of God, but not do what He says?

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

17. Were the Israelites deceived? How do you know?

Heb 12:18-21 For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”)

18. God approached Israel with signs/wonders (the Law), What was His motivation?

Deut 7:7-9 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers,...
“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant & mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him & keep His commandments;

Hebrews 12:22-24 But you have come to:

- Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

19. God approached us with Christ (grace), what was His motivation? Our response?

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace & truth came through Jesus Christ.

20. We do not have to fear the Law (punishment) anymore: Why?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 7:26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, & exalted above the heavens; who has no daily need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins & then for the sins of the people, because He did this once for all time when He offered up Himself. For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, who has been made perfect forever.