

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Sep Hebrews 1:1-14 Who Is Jesus?
- 2) 14 Sep Hebrews 2:1-13 Pay Attention
- 3) 21 Sep Hebrews 2:14-18 Why One of Us?
- 4) 28 Sep Hebrews 3:1-19 Watch Out
- 5) 05 Oct Hebrews 4-5 Secured with Confidence
- 6) 12 Oct Hebrews 6:1-20 Don't Walk Away
- 7) 19 Oct Hebrews 7:1-28 Only Jesus Saves
- 8) 26 Oct Hebrews 8:1-13 Only Jesus Transforms
- 9) 02 Nov Hebrews 9:1-28 The Perfect Offering
- 10) 09 Nov Hebrews 10-11 Faith Defined
- 11) 16 Nov Hebrews 12:1-17 The Discipline of Suffering
- 12) 23 Nov Hebrews 12:18-29 **A New Kind of Community**
- 13) 30 Nov Hebrews 13:1-25 Living Out the Faith

INTRODUCTION

- Our New Covenant with God is based on Mt Zion (Grace) and not Mt Sinai (Law), which means we have a Kingdom which cannot be shaken – So let's show our gratitude
- Since we live under Grace, does that mean we can ignore the Laws of God?
 - ♦ Only the ceremonial, cultural, and dietary Laws are obsolete. We no longer have to sacrifice animals, we can now eat lobster, and we can also wear cotton with wool garments without sinning
 - ♦ We are still obligated to keep the weightier moral laws:
 1. Worship God only; Do not kill, steal or covet; Avoid immorality; and Take care of the poor
 2. Scripture constantly reminds us if we truly love God, then we need to keep the Lord's commandments (Mt 19:17; John 14:15; 1John 3:22; 5:2-3; Rev 14:12)
 3. Consider that murder and adultery was sinful before the Mosaic Law (e.g., Cain & Abel; Joseph & Potiphar's wife), during the Mosaic Covenant, and after the Mosaic Covenant

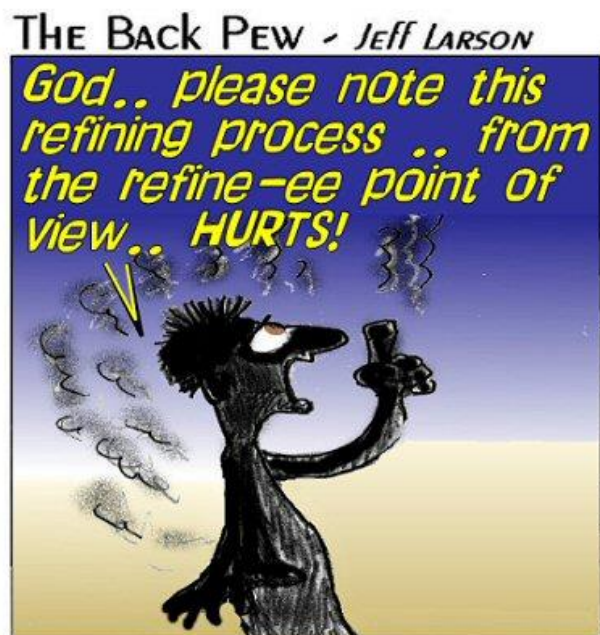
Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v25. We are not to "refuse Him who command us" – If the Israelites of the OT were held accountable, so will we ♦ vv26-27. Just as God shook the earth in the OT, more shaking will occur in the NT [There are 5 major earthquakes recorded in Rev 6, 8, 11 (2x), and 16] • v28. Our future heavenly Kingdom will be unshakeable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Even Satan won't be able to shake it ♦ How do we "show gratitude"? Consider Eph 5:1-5, where we avoid sins of selfishness
12:29	<p>For our God is a Consuming Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul quoted Deuteronomy 4:24 "For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God," to highlight that God's eternal attributes of holiness and justice coupled with mercy & wrath are still applicable TODAY under GRACE as they were under LAW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This should instill godly fear into us to constrain sin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why do we speed? - Why do our kids smart off at us & disobey? - Why do students cuss out teachers? - ...because there is no proper fear of authority – and the ultimate authority is God - BUT, why do most employees avoid cussing out their bosses? Because of fear of losing their job

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS

- Some Christians believe we can divorce ourselves from the OT, but, actually, the OT is still very relevant in our walk of faith
- What Christ fulfilled and made obsolete were the legalistic features of the Old Covenant that attempted to demonstrated our need for a permanent solution
- AND the Old Testament still has much relevance for us today – We cannot ignore it or relegate it to lesser priority
 - ♦ God's character is revealed just as much in the OT as in the NT
 - ♦ More than ½ the yet-to-be-filled prophecies are found in the OT

NEXT WEEK: Hebrews 13. We wrap up this great book with looking at more street-level activities for us to successfully live out our faith

Passage	Comments
Hebrews 12:18-24	<p>Contrast of Sinai and Zion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv18-21. The Law, received on Mt Sinai, came with fabulous blessings and harsh curses in this life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Law was tied to the Land of Israel ♦ Blessings could deliver vast amounts of crops which could last up to 3 years (49th Sabbath Year and 50th Year of Jubilee); vast amount of flocks and herds, & vast amounts of kids (progeny) - with no poverty, no diseases, and no enemies to worry about ♦ The Law was a shadow of better things to come (Grace). BUT, the Law was designed for failure – since no one could keep all the laws • vv22-24. Mount Zion (or the Heavenly Jerusalem) is representative of God's Grace through Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We do not have to worry about curses – only discipline and loss of rewards if we backslide ♦ Blessings can be realized to some degree on this side of life; BUT the vast majority of our blessings are reserved in Heaven for us 1 Peter 1:4 ♦ God intends to keep us eternally safe and not allow us to run amuck as He allowed the Israelites of old ♦ What does it mean when the blood of Jesus "speaks better than the blood of Abel"? Consider that Abel's blood, in essence, cried out for justice & retribution, whereas, the Lord's blood provides forgiveness and reconciliation
12:25-28	<p>The Unshaken Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here, the author highlights some common attributes between the OT & NT



Our God is a Consuming Fire...Hebrews 12:29