

## **THE BOOK OF HEBREWS**

### Chapter 12 Part 2

#### **“A Kingdom which Cannot be Shaken”**

Have you ever had a time in your life when your faith was shaken?

**Did you ever have a moment when you began to question, “Is Jesus really God, Is He in control of the Universe? Is Jesus even in control of my life? Because right now it doesn’t feel like Jesus is in control of everything...It feels like everything is coming apart!**

There are a couple of very interesting things that were happening when Jesus first is introduced to us in the Bible

- ☞ **John the Baptist** and Jesus are Cousins, just 6 months apart in age, who must have grown up together.
- ☞ **Yet, When John the Baptist** is down at the Jordan River Baptizing, He doesn’t even know yet that Jesus is the Messiah, until something happens...

#### **John 1:29-34**

29 The next day **John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

30 This is He of whom I said, “After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’

31 **I did not know Him**; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”

32 And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.

33 **I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He** who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

34 And **I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**”

By John’s own admission, He didn’t know that Jesus was the Messiah until he saw the Holy Spirit Descend upon Jesus and stay with Him.

- ☞ **When John sees** this happen to Jesus, He announces to all of his disciples that Jesus is the Messiah, the “*One who will take away all of the sins of the world*”.
- ☞ **Then here in verse 34**, John makes the definite statement: “*I have seen and testified that Jesus is the Son of God*”.

**But later on, after John is arrested by Harrod and put into prison, John sends a couple of his disciples to ask Jesus another interesting question:**

## **Luke 7:19-23**

19 And **John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”**

20 When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’”

**Now that is a strange question to ask Jesus isn't it?**

- ☞ **John had already announced** that Jesus was “*The Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world...*”
- ☞ **John said with his own mouth:** “*I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God...*”

Why do you suppose that now while John was in prison, does He send a couple of his disciples to ask Jesus if He really IS the Messiah?

- ☞ **What is** going on John?
- ☞ **What happened** that caused you to question if Jesus really is the promised Messiah, the Savior of the Whole World?

**I believe that it was because John the Baptist was thrown into prison, that he began to question just who Jesus really was.**

- ☞ “*If Jesus is the Messiah, the Deliverer, then why didn't He deliver me out of prison, why am I still in here?*”

This is exactly the point that we have been making over the past few weeks as we have been taking our time going through the Book of Hebrews.

**Last Sunday morning we were “Looking Unto Jesus...”**

- ☞ Instead of our troubles.
- ☞ Instead of our sufferings
- ☞ Instead of all of the things we are going through.

**We were told to Look Unto Jesus, because He is the Author and Finisher of our life's Story.**

- ☞ **But are we sometimes like John the Baptist**, we have already made a public profession that “*Jesus is the Savior of the World*”, and We have put our trust in Him.
- ☞ **Then as soon as a trial comes along** that tears our heart out and we feel like we might die inside, **we do exactly what John the Baptist did.**

*“Jesus are you really the ONE?”*

- ☞ *“Because if you are the Savior Jesus, then why don’t you save me out of this thing I am going through right now?”*
- ☞ *“Jesus, If you really are God as the Bible claims you are, then why did you let this happen to me...?”*

## **Luke 7**

22 Jesus answered and said to them, **“Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard:** that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.

23 And **blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.**”

1. *“Go tell John the things you have seen and the things you have heard...”*
2. *“Blessed is he who is not offended because of me...”*

### **What is Jesus talking about?**

- ☞ **John was just fine** to believe that **Jesus was who He claimed to be** right up until the time that John started to really suffer in his life.
- ☞ **Then, LIKE US,** John started to have some doubts about Jesus.

**So Jesus reminds John,** *“What have you seen and heard John...?”*

- ☞ **Blind people can now see,** because Jesus touched them.
- ☞ **People who were handicapped** all of their life and could not walk, Jesus has raised them up and they are walking around.
- ☞ **People that have never heard a word in their life,** can now hear every word.
- ☞ **Those that had died,** even as in Lazarus case, Dead 4 days, already decomposing, and all Jesus had to do was say: *“Lazarus come forth...”* Lazarus is walking around alive

**Remember that stuff John...** *“Oh yeah, I remember, I suppose Jesus really is God, because only God could do these kinds of things!”*

- ☞ **John needed a little reminder of what Jesus has already done,** so that in his present trial, He could have Peace to understand that **Jesus will take care of him this time too!**

Jesus wants for us to have peace, To know that even though it seems impossible in our present situation, that things will turn out good, Never the less, That is what Jesus promised...

- ☞ **Sometimes, all we need** is just a little reminder that *“Everything is going to be OK, because Jesus promised it would...”*
- ☞ **When we believe that,** It gives us a great sense of Peace, even though there might be turmoil going on all around us.

**And Jesus said that we are “Blessed if we are not offended by Him”** when He allows us to go through trials and we loose our trust in Him or doubt his love or goodness towards us.

***“Blessed are we, when we are not offended, but instead understand He is working it all our for a good purpose...”***

And this morning, as we continue in Hebrews Chapter 12, Jesus also wants us to be “Peacemakers”.

## **Hebrews 12**

14 **Pursue peace** with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

**Is it just me, or do you also find that it is becoming increasingly difficult to make and keep peace with people?**

- ⊕ **Everyone seems** to be in such a bad mood all of the time.
- ⊕ **It is like the world** has been taken over by a bunch of “Grumps”
- ⊕ **People are so angry** and short on patience with everyone

**If you hesitate for 1/1,0000th of a second longer than you should at a stop sign, the guy behind you is honking his horn at you.**

- ⊕ **Everyone seems like** they are only in this world for themselves, and if you don't fit into their plans, they have no use for you.
- ⊕ **Evil is called Good**, and everything that once was Good and pure and righteous is now called Wrong.

**But verse 14 says; “Pursue peace with all people and Holiness, without which none of us will see the Lord...”**

Pursuing peace in these last days, with difficult people...

## **2 Thessalonians 3:1-2**

... Finally, brethren, pray for us, ...that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

Making peace, and keeping peace with unreasonable people, impossible? Sometimes.

**Never the less, this is what we are called to do.**

- ⊕ **Wednesday night** at the mid week Discipleship study, we talked about loving people with “Agape” Love, the kind of love that Jesus displayed to us on the Cross.
- ⊕ **Love that has no concern for itself**, love that gives, not takes.
- ⊕ **Then we looked at** what kind of love Agape is when it is put into practice in our lives.

## **1 Corinthians 13**

4 Love **suffers long** and **is kind**; love **does not envy**; love **does not parade itself**, is **not puffed up**;

5 **does not behave rudely**, **does not seek its own**, is **not provoked**, **thinks no evil**;

6 **does not rejoice in iniquity**, but **rejoices in the truth**;

7 **bears all things**, **believes all things**, **hopes all things**, **endures all things**.

8 **Love never fails**.

**A Love that:**

- ☞ *Suffers.*
- ☞ *Is Kind*
- ☞ *Does not envy*
- ☞ *Is not Rude*
- ☞ *Is not Provoked*
- ☞ *Bears all things*
- ☞ *Endures all things*
- ☞ *A Love that never fails...*

And we looked at each other and asked, “**Can you do this? I can’t!**”

**But then, this is the whole point isn’t it?**

- ☞ **We can’t live the life** that we are called to.
- ☞ **We can’t love people** the way Jesus did, with that unselfish Agape Love.
- ☞ **We cannot do with our own love**, what 1 Corinthians 13 says we should do.
- ☞ **And we can’t even do what Hebrews 12 says** this morning: Pursue peace with all people...”

We cannot live the life that daily dies to itself, hangs itself on the Cross and lives for Jesus.

## **Philippians 2:13**

for **it is God who works in you both to will and to do** for His good pleasure.

It is Jesus living His life “**In You**” that causes 2 things to happen.

1. **He causes us to Want to do these things and**
2. **Jesus gives us the ability To Do them.**

So when you and I look at these things, Loving people, making peace in every situation, we know we cannot do it.

**When Paul was encouraging the Christians at the Philippian Church, He told them:**

## **Philippians 4**

1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so **stand fast in the Lord**, beloved.

2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to **be of the same mind** in the Lord.

3 And I urge you also, true companion, **help these women** who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

4 **Rejoice in the Lord always**. Again I will say, rejoice!

5 **Let your gentleness be known to all men**. The Lord is at hand.

6 **Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, **whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report**, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things**.

9 The **things which you learned and received and heard** and saw in me, **these do**, and the God of peace will be with you.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in **whatever state I am, to be content**:

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

**And we all read that, and we thing the same thing that we have also thought when we read about the kind of Love we are supposed to have that 1 Corinthians 13 describes, then this morning, we read that we are to “Pursue Peace with everyone...”**

And we thing to ourselves...”Paul How do you do it?” **AND THEN PAUL SAYS:**

13 **I can do all things through Christ** who strengthens me.

**I think that sometimes we believe that unless our love is perfect, it isn't real love, if our pursuit of peace with everyone is not always successful, we are flawed...**

There was once a young woman who really wanted to love and minister to people the way Jesus loves, to be patient, longsuffering, kind and gentle with people, to pursue peace with them the way the Lord does...

But everyday, satan convinced her person that that since she wasn't perfect, she had no right to Minister to other people.

One day her children brought to her a bouquet of flowers that they had picked.

She hugged each one of her kids, then took the flowers to put them in a vase.

As she tried to arrange the flowers, she noticed that her children had not picked the flowers with their stems on them, but had just picked the blossoms.

It was then that she realized that she had been given a gift of love, but it wasn't perfect.

It was then that she realized that love doesn't have to be perfect, patience longsuffering, and peace don't have to be perfect to be a blessing to someone.

**You don't have to have perfect Agape love, you don't have to be perfect in your patience, perfect in longsuffering or even perfect in pursuit of peace with people to be able to bless them, and to be blessed yourself.**

All you have to do is try... Then, just like Paul, you can say...

### **Philippians 4**

13 **I can do all things through Christ** who strengthens me.

**Is there someone this morning that you need to pursue peace with?**

- ☞ **Is there someone** who your relationship has been severed or strained?
- ☞ **Are there hard feelings**, has your fellowship with them been broken?
- ☞ **Through Jesus strength working "In You"**, you can pursue peace with this person and seek to reconcile with them.

### **Romans 12:18**

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

**As much as possible, as depends on you...** In other words, you seek to reconcile with them, if they don't receive it, that is not your responsibility, your part is to seek to restore your relationship and restore peace between you.

**If they will not reconcile, then at least you have done your part, leave the results up to the Lord.**

**And the next verse tells us the danger of what can happen if we do not humble ourselves and seek to restore broken relationships when we have been hurt or offended...**

### **Hebrews 12**

15 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;

*"A Root of Bitterness"*

There is always the danger that **if we are hurt**, if someone **offends us** or **uses us** or **takes advantage of us**, that we can so **harden our heart** that we can **become bitter**.

- ⊕ **Out of hurt**, comes hardness of heart.
- ⊕ **Out of being offended** by someone, can come a sickness of heart that can destroy you.

In the book of Acts, as the Apostles were laying their hands on people in Jesus Name, they were healed. There was a “Sorcerer” by the name of Simon, who was watching Peter as these people were being healed:

### Acts 8:18-24

18 And when **Simon** saw that **through the laying on of the apostles’ hands** the Holy Spirit was given, **he offered them money**,

19 saying, **“Give me this power also**, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

20 But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!

21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for **your heart is not right in the sight of God**.

22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

23 For **I see that you are poisoned by bitterness** and bound by iniquity.”

24 Then Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.”

Something has happened to Simon in his life that had caused “**The Root of Bitterness**” to take hold of his heart, and it has began to effect everything in his life.

- ⊕ **In verse 21** it says that Simons’ “*Heart was not right...*”
- ⊕ **Bitterness, if not dealt with**, if left in our heart, can cause our heart to be so hardened that it is no longer right towards the Lord and other people.
- ⊕ **Bitterness will effect** every other relationship we have and eventually destroy them also.

*“In the desert I saw a creature who was naked and looked like a monster.*

*He was squatting upon the ground holding his heart in his hands.*

*As he ate of his heart, I asked him: “Is it good friend?”*

*He replied: “It is bitter, so bitter, but I like it because it is bitter...*

*And because it is my heart!”*

**We can eat of the bitterness of our own heart...and actually begin to enjoy this state of bitterness...**

- ☞ **There is something about us** in this fallen nature, that seems to enjoy times of hurt and sorrow.
- ☞ **Now if we were asked** while we are hurt **if we enjoy it, we would say “NO”**.
- ☞ **And yet**, why do we call them **“Pity Parties?”**
- ☞ **Because something deep in our heart**, the **“Root cause of the Bitterness”**, seems to actually enjoy this state, and resists confessing it, or releasing it.

**Or we can take the Root, the cause of bitterness, and take it to the Lord this Morning, and confess it to Him, and allow Him to heal us and restore a tenderness to our hardened heart.**

**We can do what Job did after he lost his 7 sons and 3 daughters, as well as everything else he had, job cried out to the Lord...**

### **Job 7:11**

“Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

**Oswald Chambers**, author of *“My Utmost For His Highest”* said:

*“If there is the tiniest grudge in your mind against anyone, your spiritual penetration into the knowledge of God stops”*

- ☞ Has someone hurt you?
- ☞ Have you been put down?
- ☞ Used by Someone
- ☞ Mistreated or abused?
- ☞ Has a friend betrayed you?
- ☞ Have you lost someone that you love?
- ☞ Have you been abandoned?

**Have any of these things cause you to become bitter in your heart?**

- ☞ **Has this Bitterness** and hardness of heart affected your other relationships.
- ☞ **Has it caused you** to become someone other than the person you used to be?

**I know that when I was deeply hurt by someone a while back, I was so hurt that my relationship with Elsie was greatly strained.**

- ☞ **I didn’t even know at the time**, how this hurt had affected me. I was so hurt, that I eventually became angry, then I became frustrated, then I became harsh, and I began to take it out on my precious wife.
- ☞ **I had to repent of that**, and let the Lord heal my bitterness.
- ☞ **Today I am restored**, and I have restored my relationship with Elsie.

**Do you need to do the same this morning?**

- ☞ **Right now**, do you need to confess to the Lord, ***“I have a Root of Bitterness in me Lord”***.
- ☞ *“Jesus will you forgive me and heal me as I forgive this hurt that has so deeply affected me?”*

**I want to give you an opportunity right now, before we go any further, to stand right where you are, if you have developed this root of bitterness.**

I will wait just a minute or so to give you an opportunity to stand so that we can pray together and ask the Lord to take out the hurt, let it go, confess to the Lord that we have held on to our hurt until it has become a **“Root of Bitterness”**

**Time to be free and healed this morning.**

PRAY WITH THE PEOPLE...

**Continuing with Hebrews 12**

### **Hebrews 12**

16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who **for one morsel of food sold his birthright**.

17 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.

In Genesis 25, is the story of 2 brothers Jacob and Esau

- ☞ **Esau was the oldest**, and therefore entitled to the Rights of the firstborn son, which meant that he would receive a **Double Portion** of all that his father had.

### **Genesis 25:27-34**

27 So the boys grew. And **Esau was a skillful hunter**, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.

28 And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 Now Jacob cooked a stew; and **Esau came in from the field, and he was weary**.

30 And **Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.”** Therefore his name was called Edom.

31 But **Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.”**

32 And **Esau said, “Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?”**

33 Then **Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.”** ¶ **So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob**.

34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus **Esau despised his birthright**.

**For a temporary time of Hunger, and a desire to satisfy his hunger, Esau was willing to give up everything just to get some food.**

- ☞ **Later on, Esau regretted this decision**, but because he had **let bitterness take root in his heart**, He could not find any place of repentance, to take this bitterness to the Lord...

### **Matthew 16:26 Jesus Said:**

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or **what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

**Jesus also told us the story of two men, a Rich man and a poor man who was laid at the gate of the rich man everyday, waiting for a few crumbs from his table.**

- ☞ **They both died.**
- ☞ **The Poor man** went to the Chamber in the earth called “*Abraham’s Bosom*”, a place of comfort.
- ☞ **The Rich man**, went to a chamber across a great divide from the Chamber of the poor man called “*A place of Torment*”.

### **Luke 16**

19 “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to **Abraham’s bosom**. The rich man also died and was buried.

23 And **being in torments in Hades**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 “Then he cried and said, ‘**Father Abraham, have mercy on me**, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; **for I am tormented in this flame.**’

25 But Abraham said, “**Son, remember** that **in your lifetime** you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

27 “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house,

28 **for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.**’

29 Abraham said to him, “**They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.**’

30 And he said, “No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

31 But he said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

If we live our life for our self, if we reject Jesus in our life, if we give up our own “**Birthright**” that Jesus has given to us as the Firstborn Sons and Daughters of the Most High God.

If we do not live for Jesus, but claim to be His, all the while living only to please ourselves...

**There will be a place where we will live in an eternal state of Regret...and there will be no comfort there for that regret, and no chance to ever change that regret...**

Would a person really give up Eternal life, living in the beauty, perfection and complete love of heaven, for 70, 80 or 90 years on earth?

**It is happening everyday.**

**Every Second**, 1.78 people die

**Every Minute** 107 people Die

**Every Hour** 6,390 people Die

**Every Day** 153,000 people Die

**Every Year** 56 Million People die.

**If you live to be 70 years old, during your lifetime, 3.9 billion people will have died!**

A conservative estimate of the number of people who are saved by committing their lives to Jesus of these 56 million who die every year is about 10 Percent

**That means that only 5.6 Million make it to heaven out of the 56 million who die...**

50.4 Million traded their short lives here on earth for the place Jesus described the Rich mans final destination in Luke 16, where for time without end, He will never stop regretting his trade of eternal life for his 70 or so years on earth.

### **Matthew 16:26**

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**But back to our study in Hebrews 12**

### **Hebrews 12**

18 **For you have not** come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest,

19 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.

20 (**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.")

21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

These last 4 verses refers to that place in the Old Testament where the people stood at the base of Mount Sinai and watched the fire, the Lightning, and smoke on the mountain that represented Gods presence there.

☞ **The people were terrified** of the presence of God.

☞ **So they told Moses** to go up to the Mountain for them.

☞ **They were afraid** to Go into the Presence of God Themselves.

**But you and I do not have to be afraid this morning to Go right into the presence of the Lord of all Heaven.**

### **Hebrews 4:16**

**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- ⊕ **Because Jesus had paid for all of our sins**, we no longer have anything that offends God on our record.
- ⊕ **So, whatever it is that we are struggling with this morning**, we can bring it to the Lord right now and confess it to Him, and He will be Merciful to us, and He will forgive it.
- ⊕ **If we have not lived our life for the Jesus so far**, we can change all that right now, by accepting Jesus offer of complete forgiveness...

You and I **still have a choice** because we are still alive, **we can decide what we are going to do with our life**, where we will place our priorities, **who we will live for**.

- ⊕ **And while we make the choice to live for Jesus**, and seek to become more like him, **it is always going to be a struggle**:
- ⊕ **You can leave here this morning**, with the “*Root of Bitterness*” cleansed and forgiven.
- ⊕ **You can leave here with every sin** you have ever committed, forgiven and washed away...

**But that does not mean that you will never again struggle with doing the right thing in your life:**

There was a survey that they did a few years ago in which they asked Christians, those who are trying to follow Jesus and become more like Him.

**“What is the area of greatest Spiritual Challenge to you personally?”**

1. Materialism.
2. Pride.
3. Self Centeredness
4. Laziness
5. Anger and Bitterness (tied)
6. Sexual lust
7. Envy
8. Gluttony
9. Lying.

**The believers that responded to this survey were also asked what was the greatest source of help for them to overcome these struggles:**

**76%**, Avoiding situations where these things could happen.

**84%** Resisting temptation

**66%** Bible Study

**52%** Being accountable to someone

### **The times when these problems showed up the most:**

**81%**, When they had missed church and fellowship with other believers.

**57%**, When they were physically tired.

But what we have to be reminded of everyday is that there is waiting for us, a place that Paul said after they stoned him to death and he went into the presence of the Lord there in heaven that Paul said **IT WAS TOO WONDERFUL TO DESCRIBE WITH HUMAN WORDS!**

### **2 Corinthians 12:1-4**

1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

2 **I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago**—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one **was caught up to the third heaven.**

3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

4 how **he was caught up into Paradise** and heard inexpressible words, which **it is not lawful for a man to utter.**

### **Hebrews 12**

22 But **you have come to Mount Zion** and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

23 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,

24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

**But You, those who have already given your lives to Jesus, you are not in that place of fear before the Lord like those who were there in the desert and were terrified of God**

☞ **Because of what Jesus has done for you**, there is nothing to fear.

☞ **Jesus had made peace for you**, so that you are now “*Made Perfect, with Spot or Defect*”.

**So...**

25 **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,

26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.”

27 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.

28 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.

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

**The Lord is shaking the earth in these last days. And everything that can be shaken, will be shaken.**

Only a person who had placed all of their hope and trust upon Jesus, will be able to stand in these perilous and difficult days.

*“And since we are receiving Heaven, since it is yours right now....Let us while we are still here on the earth, have GRACE towards those who we meet everyday.”*

**Let us show to them the same unmerited favor, forgiveness, and love that Jesus died to give to us...**