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# Words of Truth

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## Hebrews 12:25-27

By: Brian A. Yeager

*“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: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 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 12:25-27).*

In this same epistle we read that if the word spoken by angels was disobeyed there was a just recompense of reward (Hebrews 2:1-2). We also read that those who despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses (Hebrews 10:28). In the context we are now studying Moses is the earthly messenger being spoken of (Hebrews 12:21).

Under the Law of Moses, if someone rejected the commandments given there was a swift punishment. Notice: *“But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him. And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses” (Numbers 15:30-36).*

The point being made by drawing this point out is to think about how much sorer punishment one could expect if they turn from He who speaks from Heaven. This point has already been made in this epistle (Hebrews 10:29-31). Those who reject the word of God can expect a fiery vengeance to be rendered unto them (II Thessalonians 1:7-9 and Revelation 21:8). When Paul spoke on Mars Hill in Athens to those ignorantly worshipping the “UNKNOWN GOD” he said this: *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance*

*unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).* When you read through punishments rendered under the Law of Moses, they were really severe at times (Exodus 32:1-28, Numbers 16:1-50, and Numbers 25:1-9). Now, the standard is higher. Therefore, so is the punishment for breaking that standard. The punishment for disobedience to Christ is eternal (Matthew 25:31-46 and John 5:28-29).

To draw the point clearly, it is brought up that the earth shook at the voice of God (Exodus 19:18). In a song by David this was said: *“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth”* (II Samuel 22:7-8). In regard to the burden of Ninevah, Nahum the prophet wrote: *“God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him”* (Nahum 1:2-6).

God could shake the earth with His voice. Yet, that is not all. They should have known God’s capability of shaking the heavens as well (Joel 3:16). They appear to have forgotten the might of God. Jews in the first century still highly revered Moses (John 9:28-29). This was even true among some believers (Acts 15:1-5). They were highly offended when something contradicted what they perceived was taught by Moses (Acts 6:10-14). So, this section of Scripture we are studying is yet another attempt to get those clinging to Moses to let go. They needed to realize that holding on to Moses and fearing the consequences of disobeying the old law was nothing in comparison to rejecting what the Father has delivered through His only begotten Son. There is no escape from God if they/we reject the New Covenant. Remember, God said: *“...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him”* (Matthew 17:5).

The promise is that the earth that was shaken will be removed. Then, there will only be that which cannot be shaken. The earth and sky are temporary (Matthew 24:35). Yet, there is a kingdom that remains. We will study about the eternal kingdom in the next article when we look at Hebrews 12:28. There is a habitation that is not of this world. It will outlast this world. That is the promise of God (II Peter 3:9-14). Regarding such, Paul and Timothy wrote saying: *“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”* (II Corinthians 5:1). They were not clinging to the temporary (Hebrews 7:16). Like them then, we too need to think about that. Nothing earthly is worth hanging on to if it will cost you your soul (Mark 8:34-38).