

"The Remedy for Spiritual Amnesia"

Hebrews 12:18-29

December 1, 2024

How many of us have experienced difficulties and trials>>

This is what Jesus told us would happen in **John 16:33>>**

In this world you will have tribulation...>>

<<we will experience all sorts of troubles and trials>>

Why>>we are experiencing the effects of the fall>>

But the danger is that they can result in *spiritual amnesia>>*

*<<forget what we **know** about Jesus>>*

This was happening to the believers in **Hebrews>>**

Some were beginning to...*give up on Jesus...>>*

In the second part of **John 16:33** *Jesus gives us the remedy>>*

But take heart! I have overcome the world...>>

Therefore, we need to DECIDE against our experiences and remember the great blessings and benefits that God has given us>>

In **Heb.12:25–29** He does this by contrasting the Old Covenant [**v.18-21**] of their **past spiritual** condition with>>

*<<the New Covenant [**v. 22-24**] of their **present spiritual** status>>*

Then in **v. 25-29**, He concludes with a comparison of the two kingdoms that represent these two covenants>>

Let's start by reading **v. 25-27** about the Old Covenant kingdom that can be shaken>>

*See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. **26** And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL NOT ONLY SHAKE THE EARTH BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." **27** This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

This Old Covenant kingdom was able to be shaken because it depended upon the faithfulness of the people>> Let's read the description of the Old Covenant in **v.18-21>>**

*For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a **blazing fire**, and to **darkness and gloom** and **whirlwind**, **19** and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. **20** For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED." **21** And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling."*

This description comes from **Ex. 19:10–22>>**

<<...and when the people saw it, they **trembled** and stood at a distance...>>**Ex. 20: 18**>>

Under this Covenant, the people could not experience the nearness of God
personally>>

<<they no **guarantee** of God's forgiveness>>

<<their relationship with God was always **external**>>

This is why the Lord promised the New Covenant>>

Jer 31:31-34 Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel... **32** not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt... **33** "But this is the Covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people... **34** for they will all know Me because I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

In **v.28-29** we are told that this Covenant ...cannot be shaken...>>

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which **cannot be shaken**, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; **29** for our God is a consuming fire.

In **v.22-24** we are given **seven reasons** why the New Covenant ...cannot be shaken... by any event in our lives>>

[1] *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...>>*

*...Zion, the City of David...>>***2 Sam 5:7**

*...Jerusalem, the city the Lord...>>***2 Chron 12:13**

In this Covenant, we are ...fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household...>>**Eph 2:19; 1 John 3:1**

[2] *...[we are come] to myriads of angels in festal gathering...>>*

We can now worship ...the Lamb Who was slain **[Rev. 5:12]**... with the angelic hosts>>

[3] *...[we have come] to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven...>>*

We can now celebrate with those believers who are with the Lord>>

[4] *...[we have come] to God, the Judge of all...>>*

We celebrate because God has declared us to be ...not guilty...>>**Rom.8:1**

[5] *...[we have come] to the spirits of the Righteous made perfect...>>*

God has made us Righteous in Christ with the rest of the saints who are now with the Lord>>**2 Cor. 5:21**

[6] *...[we have come] to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant...>>*

We now have personal fellowship with Jesus Who is the Author of the New Covenant>>

[7] ...[we have come] to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel...>>

Luke 22:20 ...this is the New Covenant in My blood...>>

What does the New Covenant say to us about Jesus>>

Matt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all who are **weary** and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. **29** "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.** **30** "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

In **Is. 53:3-4** we read why Jesus can give us rest to our souls>>

He was ...a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; surely He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows...>>

Jesus Himself has experienced our grief, our sorrows, our burdens and even OUR SIN>>

In **John 11** we are told that Jesus ...was **deeply moved** in spirit and was troubled... over the effects of Lazarus' death>>

What was His response>>

39 and said, "Remove the stone." ... **41** So they removed the stone... **43** When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." **44** The man who had died came forth...>>

This is the One Who is says to us in the midst of our storms>>

...I am the resurrection and the Life...>>

...I will never leave you nor abandon you...>>

This is the One Who has given us a Kingdom that cannot be shaken>>

When trouble, sorrows overwhelm us>>

<<we must DECIDE against our experiences and ...fix our eyes on Jesus...>>**Heb. 12:2**

In closing let's read **Rom 8:31-39** where we read why we can ...fix our eyes on Jesus... even in the worst of times>>

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...**37** But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.