

WORSHIP THE GOD WHO IS A CONSUMING FIRE

MAY 21, 2023

1. The Climactic Call to Worship in Hebrews: Offer to God acceptable worship, 12:28-29

a. What is the background of the phrase “our God is a consuming fire”?

Hebrews 9:27; 12:14, 18–21

- The impossibility of approaching the _____ God (Exodus 19).

b. What is the “kingdom that cannot be shaken” which we have received?

- The _____ of God’s people in His _____ (12:22-24), which will be what remains forever (26-27).

c. If it is impossible to approach the holy God, how have sinners been brought near to Him and His everlasting kingdom?

i. Background: The Old Testament means of approaching the holiness of God, 9:1

Hebrews 9:1 *the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place for holiness.*

ii. Jesus Christ: Our great hope for drawing near to God

Hebrews 7:19 *a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God*

He is a merciful, faithful, and permanent high priest (2:17, 7:24)

He was tempted just as we are, yet without sin (4:15)

He offered himself as the unblemished, once-for-all sacrifice to put away sin (8:3, 7:27, 9:14, 26)

He made propitiation for the sins of the people so that our sins are taken away and God remembers them no more (2:17, 8:12, 10:4, 17)

He is the mediator of a new and better covenant (7:22, 9:15)

He has passed through the heavens and entered into the holy presence of God for us (4:14, 6:19)

He entered the true, heavenly tabernacle once for all (8:1-5, 9:12)

He is seated at the right hand of God for us and appears in the presence of God on our behalf (8:2, 9:24)

He opened the way into the holy place so that we can draw near to God (9:8, 7:19)

He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them (7:25)

He ensures that those who are called will receive the promised eternal inheritance because he enrolls them in the assembly of the firstborn in heaven (9:15, 12:23)

Hebrews 10:19–22 *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

2. The repeated call to worship in Hebrews: _____ to God through Christ

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 7:19 *(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.*

Hebrews 7:24–25 *but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

Hebrews 10:19–22 *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

3. What is the “acceptable worship” of Hebrews 12:28? It is drawing near to God:
 - a. through Christ alone
 - b. with reverence and _____
 - c. with a _____ conscience

Hebrews 10:22 *let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience (9:9, 13-14; 10:2-4; 13:18)*

Hebrews 7:25 *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

d. paying careful attention to His _____

Hebrews 12:25 *See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.*

Hebrews 3:15 *“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” (3:7-4:10; 2:1-4; 11)*

e. _____ Him

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (4:2; 10:22)*

f. in repentance and _____

Hebrews 12:1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely*

Hebrews 12:4 *the struggle against sin*

Hebrews 12:10 *he disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness*

g. with _____ dependence

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

h. through a whole _____ given to God

Hebrews 13:1–5

i. with _____ words that honor his name

Hebrews 13:15 *Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.*

j. with _____

Hebrews 10:35–36 *Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.*

Conclusion

Hebrews 13:20–21