

I. Introduction and review.**II. Pay attention to the heavenly voice. v. 25****A. God is speaking. v. 25a 11:1-4****B. Don't refuse Him. v. 25b**

1. This has been a major concern throughout Hebrews. 3:7-8 10:26-31 6:4-8 4:11ff
2. The Israelites didn't want to hear God's voice at Sinai. 12:19 Ex. 20:19 Dt. 5:25ff
3. God has now spoken in the greatest possible way through Christ. 12:24 10:19ff
4. "Don't refuse Him" is another way of saying "Pay careful attention."

C. Those who refused to hear when He spoke on earth did not escape punishment. v. 25c

1. It wasn't just Moses speaking at Sinai. It was God Himself.
2. They repeatedly said, "No!" to God. Ex. 32:1ff
3. God severely chastised them. Ex. 32:28,33-35
4. Instead of entering God's rest, they died in the wilderness. 3:7ff Nu. 14:29ff

D. How much less would we escape judgment after God warned us from heaven? v. 25d

1. In what sense has God spoken from heaven? 8:1 9:24 12:23
2. The fact that the New Covenant proclaimed at Zion is more inviting does not imply that the consequences of refusal have decreased.
3. Rather the rejection of this better covenant will result in more terrible (and inescapable) consequences. 2:3 10:28-31 6:4-8

E. Application.

1. In what ways do people refuse to listen to God today?
2. How should you respond to His voice?

III. The great shakedown is coming. v. 26-27**A. The shaking of the earth at Sinai was only a foreshadowing of the shaking which will occur when the Lord returns. v. 26**

1. At Sinai, God only shook the earth. Ex. 19:18 Judges 5:4-5 Ps. 68:8-9 77:18 114:7
2. A greater quaking of both earth and heaven was anticipated in the Day of the Lord. Isa. 2:12,19,21 13:13 Hag. 2:6,21-22 Joel 2:10
3. In what sense will heaven be shaken?
 - a. Heaven can refer to the visible heavens (1:10ff 4:14 Ge. 1:1f) which surround the earth or the invisible heavenly realm (12:25d,22-23 8:1,5 9:22-23).
 - b. Probably our author is speaking of the shaking of the visible heavens which make up part of the created order. Mt. 24:29 Gen. 1:1f Ps. 102:25-27 Isa. 34:4
4. Jesus is the One who shakes the world. Mt. 27:51 28:2 24:29-31 Acts 4:31 16:26 3:19-20 Mt. 24:29-31 Rev. 16:18-21

B. The created earthly realm will be shaken into oblivion in the Last Day. v. 27a

1. *Once more* refers to a final and decisive shaking which will remove all temporal created things.
2. Just as the old earthly order of worship was temporary and has been abolished, so the entire earthly realm will be destroyed. II Pe. 3:10-13 I Co. 7:31 Isa. 51:6
3. All earthly kingdoms will be abolished. 13:14 Hag. 2:21-22 Dan. 2:44,34-35

- C. That which cannot be shaken will remain forever. v. 27b
1. Just as Christ's heavenly priesthood lasts forever, so His heavenly kingdom is permanent. 11:10,16 13:14 Dan. 2:44
 2. The creation will be totally transformed. Rom. 8:19-21
 3. God will bring together the invisible heavenly realm and the earth in the glorious new heaven and earth. 12:22-24 Rev. 20:11 21:1,7ff Isa. 65:17 66:22
 4. We enjoy heavenly status and permanence because of our connection to Christ.
- D. Application.
1. The hope of the final shaking gives encouragement to the small band of God's oppressed people in Haggai's day, in the days of the Hebrews, and in our day.
 2. Don't waste your life on that which is temporary and will be destroyed. Instead, invest in eternity. II Pe. 2:11 Mt. 7:24-27
 3. God is an unshakeable refuge for those who trust Him. Ps. 15:5 16:8 21:7 55:22

IV. Let us serve God with reverence and awe. v. 28-29

- A. We are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken. v. 28a Dan. 7:13-14,18 2:44 Hag. 2:23 Heb. 1:8
1. We who were once under the domain of darkness have been invested with royalty in Christ's kingdom. I Pe. 2:9 Co. 1:13 II Ti. 2:12 Da. 7:18 Re. 1:6 5:10
 2. We have already begun to participate in this kingdom. 12:22f
- B. The only proper response to such blessing is gratitude. v. 28b
1. Greater privilege produces a greater obligation to thankfulness.
 2. Ingratitude lies at the root of sin and rebellion. Ro. 1:21
 3. We should be a thankful people, in all circumstances. I Th. 5:18 Co. 3:17 Phil. 4:6
- C. Express your thankfulness by offering priestly service to God. v. 28c
1. Christ has perfected us so that we can serve as priests in His kingdom. I Pe. 2:5,9
 2. What makes our service acceptable to God?
 3. What kinds of service ought we to offer God? 13:16 John 4:24 I Pe. 2:5 Ro. 12:1
- D. Serve our holy God with reverence and awe. v. 28d-29 Lev. 10:1-2 Mt. 25:41 13:40ff
1. The fact that we enjoy the privileges of the New Covenant does not mean God is any less holy than He was under the Old Covenant.
 2. Those who trifle with His holiness will find him to be a consuming fire. 12:18 10:27,31 Dt. 4:24 32:22 II Th. 1:7 Rev. 1:14 20:9ff 21:8 II Pe. 3:7,12 Gen. 19:24
 3. Thank God that Jesus has undergone the fire of judgment for us. Ex. 29:18,41

V. Concluding applications: *The Big One* is inevitable.

Discussion questions

1. What reason is given that we should listen to God? v. 25
2. In what ways do people refuse God's voice today?
3. How did the earthquake at Sinai foreshadow future events?
4. In what way will the future shaking be greater?
5. What are the *things which can be shaken* and what will happen to them?
6. What are the things which cannot be shaken?
7. Is your life invested in shakeable or unshakeable things?
8. What should be our response to the blessing of being part of God's everlasting kingdom?
9. What kind of service does God seek from us?
10. What is meant by the phrase *our God is a consuming fire*?