

An Exposition of Hebrews

Lesson 19 – Chapter 12:18-13:6 ³⁴¹⁹

Passage NASU	Commentary & Analysis	Bible Interprets the Bible References
<p>Contextual Transition: In last week's lesson we saw the severity of God towards Esau even when he sought God's blessing from his father with tears, though he could not, he would not seek such blessings with repentance! The lost tend to think they are sufficient unto God. They will not approach God in repentance.</p>		
<p>The Glorious Company</p>		
<p>12:18-19 <i>For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, ¹⁹and 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.</i></p>	<p>The Law of Moses was delivered to Israel at Mount Sinai. This Law clearly is terrifying in its holiness and clearly teaches us about the absolute holiness and righteousness of God. This Law is our tutor to cause us to fear God and know with certainty that without God's own merciful provision, we have no hope of ever again being in fellowship with Him.</p> <p>There is a vast gulf separating the lost mankind from Him!</p>	<p>Gal 3:22-26 <i>But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.</i></p>
<p>12:20-21 <i>For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED." Ex 19:11-13 ²¹And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling." Dt9:19</i></p>	<p>This delivery of the Law to the Israelites was a terrifying event, to be confronted with the reality of a holy God, surrounded by the evidence of His power, His wrath, His justice, His sovereignty, etc. etc.</p> <p>Today in most evangelical circles, we think of God as rather common, loving only, and we do not understand how God could send any person to hell. We have entirely lost sight of who God is and His terrifying holiness.</p>	<p>Is 6:1-7 - - - <i>Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. - - -</i></p>
<p>12:22-23 <i>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,</i></p>	<p>church <i>ἐκκλησία</i> <i>ekklesia</i> (Str. 1577) 114x meaning the called out ones; the gathering of competent citizens of the city states of Greece. In Hebrews the meaning lies in the called out ones as <u>the church, the body of Christ residing on this earth as witnesses and ambassadors unto Christ.</u></p> <p>The description given of those who are in Christ coming to fellowship with the Father is vastly different than the preceding description (vv. 20-21 above). The blood of Christ covers our sin completely and we are pure white in holiness before God.</p> <p>We have come to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Zion, not Sinai! • Jerusalem, the city of God, not the wilderness! • Protected and overseen by myriads of angels! • The saints in heaven who have been enrolled in heaven (elect unto God)! • The spirits of the righteous made perfect in Christ! 	<p style="text-align: right;">} Clearly the Church</p>
<p>12:24 <i>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.</i></p>	<p>Finally, we have come to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus the Christ of God, our mediator of a new covenant, to the sprinkled blood by which we are redeemed unto the Father. This blood is a better blood than that of Abel, who is there in heaven as a first-fruits of God's redemptive plan. 	<p>Heb 11:4 <i>By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.</i></p>

<p>Hear the Heavenly Host There is new revelation from God in the Apostolic writings that were being accumulated at this time to become the completion of Scripture by the New Testament which Canon was to be completed with the writings of John roughly 2 decades hence.</p>		
<p>12:25 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.</p>	<p>This new revelation from God explains the meaning of and purposes Old Testament types.</p> <p>It also reveals in detail the mystery, unknown until now, of the redemption completed by Jesus, the Christ, on Calvary's cross. The New Testament is written in much more objective language than much of the Old Testament was, though both testaments are completely true in what they speak about.</p>	<p>Rom 16:25-27 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.</p>
<p>12:26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." Hag 2:6</p>	<p>The Father's voice at Sinai shook the mountain and brought about fear, but now this new revelation shakes the whole heavens revealing truths that defeat all opposition to the Father's plan.</p> <p>There is now fear amongst Satan and his demons. They know for a surety that their destiny is eternal death.</p>	<p>Col 2:13-15 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.</p>
<p>12:27 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.</p>	<p>At Sinai the earth was shaken, at Calvary the earth was shaken. The things of the created order were all shaken by God's judgment and His glory.</p> <p>And yet there remains His heavenly (3rd heaven) realm that cannot be shaken. This realm is not under the rules of the earth or even the universe.</p> <p>God rules all things here directly. There is no sin here, there is no "fall" here, there is no depravity here. It is secure and has never been corrupted.</p>	<p>2 Cor 12:2-4 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows — <u>such a man was caught up to the third heaven.</u> ³And I know how such a man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows — ⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.</p>
<p>12:28-29 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may <u>offer to God an acceptable service</u> with reverence and awe; ²⁹<u>for our God is a consuming fire.</u></p>	<p>Here is a Hebrew Christian (the author of Hebrews) admonishing these Hebrew Christian (and ourselves) to: <u>Show gratitude!</u></p> <p>That is we can <u>offer to God an acceptable service</u> ! Such gratitude must be offered with reverence and awe. What is meant by this admonition??</p> <p><u>Your Notes:</u></p> <p>Here we see a cautionary phrase, namely that our God is a consuming fire! Fear of God is an essential motive for our service to God!</p>	<p>2 Thess 1:5-7 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. ⁶For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,</p>
<p>Concluding Moral Directions Here the author is addressing those Hebrews who are professing faith in Christ. We see the tone here changes to be from a sermon, to include seeker and skeptic Hebrews, now to address those, in the form of an epistle, who would be considered within the church, being in Christ through faith.</p>		

<p>13:1 <i>Let love of the brethren continue.</i></p>	<p>1st commandment mentioned: This is a standard requirement of all New Testament saints throughout the New Testament, to love one another!</p>	<p>1 Jn 2:9-11 4th diagnostic 1 Jn 3:13-18 12th diagnostic 1 Jn 4:7-12 16th diagnostic</p>
<p>This and what follows are examples of our acceptable service to God! (Heb 13:1-6)</p>		
<p>13:2 <i>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.</i></p>	<p>2nd commandment mentioned: <i>To show hospitality to strangers</i></p>	<p>Rom 12:9-13 <i>Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.</i></p>
<p>13:3 <i>Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.</i></p>	<p>3rd commandment mentioned: <i>Remember the prisoners</i></p>	<p>Heb 10:34-35 <i>For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. ³⁵Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.</i></p>
<p>13:4 <i>Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.</i></p>	<p>4th commandment mentioned: <i>Marriage is to be held in honor</i> VII. Commandment: <i>You shall not commit adultery.</i> A somewhat common heretical view amongst some Evangelical Christians in America is called “antinomianism” which means “against the Law”. They say, that is in the Old Testament and does not apply to the church. WRONG!</p>	
<p>13:5a <i>Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have;</i></p>	<p>5th commandment mentioned: <i>Make sure that your character is free from the love of money,</i> X. Commandment: <i>You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.</i> <u>Ditto above!</u></p>	
<p>13:5b-6 <i>for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," Dt 31:6c so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?" Ps 118:6</i></p>	<p>Two Primary promises that empower us to obey the above commandments and others mentioned throughout the New Testament.</p> <p>Promise #1: God is at our side throughout this life. We don’t see Him or hear Him, but as we worship, as we pray, as we study His word, as we submit and serve Him, we learn to trust Him beyond measure.</p> <p>Promise #2: Man cannot touch or harm me outside of God’s perfect will for my life. As the only Sovereign, He is always, entirely, in charge of all things in my life!</p>	
<p>Summary/Conclusions/Comments: My service to God is to be understood by me as one who has: <i>been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.</i> Gal 2:20</p>		

Important Quote(s)

The law was given to men through Moses, but it did not originate with Moses. It had existed in the heart of God from before the foundation of the world. On Mount Sinai it became the legal code for the nation of Israel; but the moral principles it embodies are eternal. There never was a time when the law did not represent the will of God for mankind nor a time when the violation of it did not bring its own penalty, though God was patient and sometimes "winked" at wrongdoing because of the ignorance of the people. Paul's close-knit arguments in the third and fifth chapters of his Epistle to the Romans make this very clear. The spring of Christian morality is the love of Christ, not the law of Moses; nevertheless there has been no abrogation of the principles of morality contained in the law. No privileged class exists exempt from the righteousness which the law enjoins.

A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, p. 94