



DIGGING DEEPER

Hebrews 12:18-29 – An unshakeable kingdom

PLEASE READ – Hebrews 12:18-29

GETTING STARTED

Although the New Covenant succeeds the Old Covenant, which is now obsolete (8:13), the NT writings still insist that “the law is good” – Romans 7:12, 1 Timothy 1:8

So why does God give the Law in the scary way that Exodus 19-20 records, and Hebrews 12:18-21 summarises? What was God’s intention with this Law (see Galatians 3, particularly v22).

Is it fair to say that “the Law is good *as far as it goes*”?

“But we don’t want to give you that” (ITV’s *Millionaire*)

Thinking about **verses 18-21**, how do you feel about ...

- i) ... the fearsome delivery of the Law?
- ii) ... the centuries of gory sacrifice the Law was to require?

Does all of this teach you something, or simply repel you?

(Remember to factor in Exodus 29:43-45 – and link to Revelation 21:3.)

Thinking about **verses 22-24**, ...

- i) What questions do you have about “heaven”?
- ii) What for you is the most significant thing about “heaven”?

If someone asks, “*Will there be X in heaven?*”, is “*If it is necessary for your eternal happiness that X should be there, it will be*” a good enough answer?

And therefore ...

In **verses 25-27**, a warning. Where else have we heard something like this in Hebrews?

Banks may offer “securities”, but are they really? Have a think through what people may regard as safely dependable in this world - if they’re so lucky (would that be the word?) to have them.

To what extent do you find *yourself* thinking these are dependable, too? Is that a form of unbelief? Is it wrong for a Christian to look for some “peace of mind” in an insurance policy, just for example?

As well as what looks like, here in Hebrews 12, a final dramatic “shaking” in some “End Time”, does God sometimes “shake” us even now *for our own good*?

In **verses 28-29**, two attitudes to cultivate.

- i) Be thankful
- ii) Be reverent

Could we perhaps do better on these counts? How?

Might it be a good idea, before your meeting closes, to spend some time in prayer giving expression of **reverent thanks** to the Almighty God, who is our Heavenly Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ?