

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Worship with Holy Fear

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
October 1, 2023



What is shaking your life right now?

When life shakes us our view of God really matters...

Hebrews 12:18-21 (NLT) You have not come to a physical mountain, to a place of flaming fire, darkness, gloom, and whirlwind, as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai. ¹⁹ For they heard an awesome trumpet blast and a voice so terrible that they begged God to stop speaking. ²⁰ They staggered back under God's command: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." ²¹ Moses himself was so frightened at the sight that he said, "I am terrified and trembling."

- **Before Jesus God seemed distant and threatening.**

Hebrews 12:22-24 (NLT) No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. ²³ You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. ²⁴ You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

- **Because of Jesus God is near and welcoming.**

Hebrews 1:3 (NLT) "The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honour at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven."

All of this shows us who we are approaching when we come to God in worship.

- **God is transcendent yet intimate.**
- **God is all-powerful yet gentle.**
- **God is righteous yet patient.**
- **God is Spirit yet tangible.**
- **God is holy yet forgiving.**

How should we respond to a God like this?

Hebrews 12:25-29 (NLT) Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! ²⁶ When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also." ²⁷ This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain. ²⁸ Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a devouring fire.

2 Peter 3:10-13 (NIV) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:11b-12 (NIV) "You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."

Hebrews 12:28-29 (NLT) "Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a devouring fire."

- **Live thankful lives before God, rooted in His grace.**
- **Live holy and godly lives before God, rooted in hope.**

Big Idea: Know and love God to be unshakeable in our shaky world.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Worship with Holy Fear
#3 of 4 - October 1, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at 2 Chronicles 7:11-16 and what it means to seek God's face. What did you learn and apply this week in regard to this?
- 2) Read Hebrews 12:18-29. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us?
- 5) How are the two mountains contrasted in this passage. What is the significance of this?
- 6) What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? Read Hebrews 1:1-4 for more insight.
- 7) Read 2 Peter 3:10-13. How does this contrasted to Hebrews 12:28-29. What does this tell us about what is to come for us as believers?
- 8) How does the writer of Hebrews challenge us to respond to God in v. 28. What does it mean to worship with "holy fear & awe"?
- 9) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this message. What steps do you need to take to worship God with greater reverence and awe?



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