

# Consuming Fire

7-6-25

Hebrews 12:29 (ESV)

Our God is a consuming fire.

**This is the last sentence of Chapter 12. It is the closing thought to the teaching of the book of Hebrews. Although Chapter 13 is the closing chapter, it serves more like an appendix to the book. Therefore, the closing thought to the teaching of Hebrews is “Our God is a consuming fire.” This truth definitely drives home the seriousness of all God had to say. Nothing we have learned should be taken lightly. This comes from Deuteronomy 4:24 (ESV) NO/OH**

For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

**This communicates the intensity and power of what God says. We see this reality when Elijah confronted the idol worshipers in Israel.**

1 Kings 18:24 (ESV)

You call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.

**Truth: “The God who answers by fire, he is God.”**  
It is easy to be so taken up with the love and compassion of God that we overlook HIS implacable opposition to all evil. The wrath of God is not a popular subject today, but it looms large in Biblical teaching. We are not to overlook God’s wrath. *God remains the same despite the new circumstances of the new covenant.* Fearfully, believers should never consider returning to their former way of life. Look at the context of this verse. Starting in verse 18, God pulls the OT and NT together. HE shows us the glory of our indescribable status standing before the one and only true God in all his power and majesty. First God shows us the OT physical example when Moses received the 10 commandments then the spiritual reality fulfilled in Christ. First the OT.

Hebrews 12:18-19 (NIV) NO/OH

<sup>18</sup>**You have not come** to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; <sup>19</sup>to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them.

**Then we see our privileged position in the NT.**

Hebrews 12:22-24 (NIV) NO/OH Summarized

<sup>22</sup>**But you have come** to the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup>to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, <sup>24</sup>to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.

**Then, in verse 25, God tells us we are without excuse and had we better listen to HIM. We need to beware, because God means what HE says.**

Hebrews 12:26-27 (NIV) Summarize

At the time of Moses God's voice shook the earth, but now God has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens," ... removing the created things—so that only the eternal things will remain.

**Pay attention! Heb.10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Earth and heaven will be shaken. Only eternal things remain.**

Hebrews 12:28 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

**“Let us be thankful” in the original is just two words, (1) to hold and (2) grace. Easily translated, “*Let us hold on to God’s grace.*” The word used for “worship” has a broader meaning, “to serve”.**

**Thus verse 28 could be translated:**

**Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, *let us hold on to God’s grace*, and serve God acceptably with reverence and awe.**

**Why hold on to God’s grace and serve HIM with reverence and awe? Because:** Hebrews 12:29 (NIV)

**Our God is a consuming fire.** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, because we know the God who answers by fire, he is God.

**With fearful reverence and awe, we serve Jesus, embracing our loving relationship with HIM.**

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.