

# “So Great a Salvation”

Lesson 9, for Sunday May 6, 2001

“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 *shall we escape* who turn away from Him who *warns* from heaven. 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.’ And this *expression*, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.”  
Hebrews 12:25-29, NAS

“For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest *as an offering* for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Hence, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.”  
Hebrews 13:11-13, NAS

## The Outline

### F. Call to Worship, Faith, Perseverance (10:19-12:29)

1. Access to God through the Sacrifice of Christ (10:19-25).
2. Fourth Admonition: The Willful Sin of Apostasy (10:26-31).
3. Call to perseverance (10:32-39).
4. The faith of the elders (11:1-40).
  - a. Prologue: The nature of faith (11:1-3).
  - b. The faith of the Antediluvians (11:4-7).
  - c. The faith of Abraham and Sarah (11:8-12).
  - d. The City of God and homeland of the faithful (11:13-16).
  - e. More about the faith of the patriarchs (11:17-22).
  - f. The faith of Moses (11:23-28).
  - g. Faith at the exodus and settlement (11:29-31).
  - h. Further examples of faith (11:32-38).

- i. Epilogue: Faith’s vindication comes with Christ (11:39-40).
5. Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (12:1-3).
6. Discipline is for legitimate children (12:4-11).
7. Let us then be up and doing (12:12-17).
8. The earthly Sinai and the heavenly Zion (12:18-24).
9. Pay heed to the Voice of God! (12:25-29).

### G. Concluding Exhortation and Prayer (13:1-21)

1. Ethical injunctions (13:1-6).
2. Examples to follow (13:7-8).
3. The true Christian sacrifices (13:9-16).
4. Submission to leaders (13:17).
5. Request for prayer (13:18-19).
6. Prayer and doxology (13:20-21).

### H. Postscript (13:22-25)

1. Personal notes (13:22-23).
2. Final greetings and benedictions (13:24-25).

## The Argument

Let us, then, abandon the old obsolescent order and approach God along this new and living way which Jesus, by his death, has opened to us. Let us maintain steadfast hope and faith in Him. Thus we shall have a firm assurance of those eternal realities which are invisible to the outward eye; we shall be able to look forward with eager expectation to the sure advent of the Coming One. It was by such forward-looking faith that the saints of earlier days won the approval of God; they lived in the light of those promises whose fulfillment has come in our day. Let us follow their example. Better still, let us follow the example of Jesus. He ran the race of faith from first to last, for all the disgrace of the cross, and is now enthroned at God’s right hand.

Let us not grow fainthearted because of our trials; these trials are the proof that we are indeed the trueborn sons of God. And think of the glory which is our heritage in this age of fulfillment - far surpassing what men and women of faith experienced in days gone by. How could we ever think of going back to the old ways?

So maintain your Christian confession in patience and hope; live as Christians should; and may God, who raised Jesus from the dead, help you to do His will in all things.