

The author returns to the theme he first introduced at the beginning of his letter:

*“See the ye refuse not him that speaketh”* (v. 25)

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets**, Hath in these last days **spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

Hebrews 2:1-3

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to **the things which we have heard**, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if **the word spoken by angels** was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be **spoken by the Lord**, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;

Hebrews 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but **the word preached** did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

Hebrews 4:12

For **the word of God** is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## God Reveals Himself to Us and Relates to Us by His Speaking to Us

Deuteronomy 4:33,36

Did ever people hear **the voice of God speaking** out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live? Out of heaven **he made thee to hear his voice**, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and **thou heardest his words** out of the midst of the fire.

Read Deuteronomy 4:1 – 24 for the context of what God spoke to the children of Israel from Sinai and note especially verse 24: “For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God,” which the author of Hebrews quotes in 12:29.

## The Contrast: Speaking from Earth and Heaven

The author is contrasting the consequences experienced by the Israelites who rejected the word spoken by God at Sinai with the “much more” severe consequences experience by the those who reject the word spoken by God through His Son – “Jesus the mediator of the new covenant.”

### **God Speaks from Earth: "...him that spoke on earth..." (v. 25)**

This is a reference to God speaking from Sinai. The author has in view all of the rites and rituals of the old Judaistic system of temples, sacrifices, rites, and rituals. Here God is speaking in types and metaphor. What was established was **of the earth** and there for temporal (temporary).

### **God Speaks from Heaven: "...him that speaks from heaven." (v. 25)**

This is a reference to God speaking through His Son. This is the gospel which has fulfilled all that the old Judaistic system pointed to: the reality of the once for all sacrifice of Christ which negates the necessity of temples, sacrifices, rites, and rituals.

John 3:12

If I have told you **earthly things**, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of **heavenly things**?

Read John 12:47 – 50

Here the author is summarizing all that he has said previously in his contrasting **the earthly** Judaistic economy (way of doing things) with **the heavenly** economy grounded in our faith in Jesus Christ.

### **The Shaking of the Earth and Heaven**

#### **"Whose voice then shook the earth..." (v. 26)**

This is a reference to God speaking from Sinai and establishing the law with its commandments and statutes which restrained the uncontrolled passions of the human heart and gave structure to the civil society. This "shaking" upset the order of things and brought in a new order.

#### **"Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven" (v. 26)**

This is a quote from **Haggai 2:6 – 9** the context of which is the overthrow of the kingdoms of this world and the establishing of the kingdom of God.

The coming of the eternally existing Son of God into the world is the beginning of the establishing of the kingdom of God. The coming of Jesus upset the order of things, establishing a new order in the gospel under the reign and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

*"...signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of **things that are made**" (v. 27)  
Compare 9:11 – "not made with hands," and 9:24 – "made with hands"*

*"...that those **things which cannot be shaken** may remain." (v. 27")*

*The author has in view here the kingdom of God established in the gospel which can never be shaken, moved, or removed.*

Again, the author is emphasizing the superiority of Christianity over Judaism by comparing that which is temporary and of the earth (the Mosaic economy) with that which is eternal and of heaven"

The kingdom of God manifests itself in the community of believers known as "the church" who as we live out the principles of the kingdom (enabled by faith in Jesus and His indwelling Holy Spirit) the order of things in the earth are shaken or upset.

### **Our Response to the Shaking: vv. 28-29**

- Thankfulness that we have received the kingdom by grace
- Awe-filled (Awwful) worship of the God who has revealed himself to us by His word (speaking)