

August 20, 2023

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Hebrews 12

Run with Perseverance

(2 Timothy 2:1-13)

The author begins this chapter with a metaphor about a race and by implication runners. In a race events, as most of us have seen, there are often many spectators seeing who is the most fit of the runners, who can finish the race and who will win the prize. Many races have the starting line and the finishing line at the same place, but not so in this race that God describes. The starting point is far different from the end of the race for the successful runner. In this race to end up at the starting point would not be the success for which we had hoped. We must have progressed on the course set before us, or we simply have not run the race. Failing to progress, improve in our sanctification metaphoric race tells us we have not embraced the challenge of obedience to our Creator God and Savior Jesus Christ.

1Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

The author prodded by God lays out three factors used by a successful runner in this case a successful Christian.

1. "Lay aside every weight". The idea is that the things of life weigh us down, and as a Christian either beginning a race or part way through the race, all that we carry from this life slows us down. It causes us to not put full attention to the race that we have chosen to run as new believers.
2. "And the sin which doth so easily beset us".

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

It appears from other verses about common sin that two types of sins emerge as perhaps universal and common, sins involving our lips, our speech and sins involving our lusts. There are obviously many other types of sin that are common to man that each of us effected by them must confess and repent. Otherwise we are burdened and cannot run the race we should run.

3. The third deals with patience; **“let us run with patience the race that is set before us”**.

This race does not have a particular course that must be conquered, each person’s race path may be quite different. The reason for the different race paths is based on how we deal with the “old man” and with sin in our lives. A person that is successful at shedding the old man the many aspects of sin in their lives demonstrates a strong will to obedience to God. Some of the rest of us struggle with even small amounts of will power. We are weak and seem to struggle with many sins. God says He is strong in our weakness. There is a dichotomy, a contrast, in God’s economy that seems conflicting to ours when we consider our weakness in obedience.

2 Corinthians 12: [9](#)And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10](#)Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

It seems that Paul learned some portion of patience in this infirmity **“*thorn in the flesh*”**. By learning to wait on the Lord because for some reason God is strong in our weakness. But that only happens if we let Him take charge and rely on Him.

Talk is cheap but practically how is that done. My sense is that it is all about a heart and mental attitude. The only real thing we control in our lives is our attitude about things that happen to us. We can either be joyful in plenty and in little or we can be complainers about our circumstances. It is so easy to complain, the words just flow over our tongue like honey. The more we complain the more unhappy we are about everything. We may not like our current or future condition, but what we have control over is our attitude about how we will react to whatever situation God allows in our lives. Our attitude Truly reveals who is in charge in our lives. If we are complainers, then we have held onto that burden, and it slows our race. If we are happy and joyful regardless of the circumstance then we have set aside that burden and God is helping us run the race with joy, love and grace.

It appears that when we have joy in our heart even in the face of challenges, our attitude is the key to patience it appears.

2Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus is not only the author of our faith, but He also brings it to a finish if we are obedient and allow Him to rule our lives. If He sets

the racecourse, tells us how and where to run, what pace to set and what to bring along and what to leave behind and we follow that advice, He will finish the race for us; through us with GREAT JOY.

Jesus' course on earth was set by the Father. It was established at the creation that sin, would require innocent blood to resolve man's sin and conquer death. Probably millions of innocent animals were slaughtered to provide temporary forgiveness. What was needed was a sacrifice so sacred that man could not perceive it in his consciousness. This specific sacrifice had to be found to relieve all men of their sin for all time. That was Jesus's course, and He faithfully completed His race to the Cross. He endured all that was required of Him and when complete sat at God the Father's right hand, victor over death and sin.

3For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

God is cautioning us to "endure" opposition to our faith and our faithful walk. None of us have been challenged to death or to physical brutality like Christ was. We are to think about what He endured to save us and run in that endurance, our race. We are not to faint due to over exertion in the race, that is why God tells us to learn patience in other words pace ourselves, don't get

ahead of the Holy Spirit. Walk in God's Joy and Love, for we are loved by God.

God Disciplines His Sons

4Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Most of us have only felt rejection of our message of the gospel, no one has taken a club to us to drive us away. No punishment has been delivered to us for speaking about Christ.

There were some pastors during Covid that refused to stop teaching and meeting. Some were arrested and jailed. Others were heavily fined to try to stop them. None, that I am aware of were beaten at least not in America. But how far away is that physically brutal response to our boldly speaking God's Truth and God's Word? We have brothers and sisters in the Lord around the world that are experiencing physical abuse today. We sit comfortably in America protected by God through our God given Constitution and His protection. But how much longer will that last? Will we be prepared when that day comes if Rapture doesn't come first? Can we continue the race set before us if buffeted by Satan and evil? We need to Spiritually and mentally prepare for such a time as that, in order to faithfully, with Love and Joy continue the race set before us.

5And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

The exhortation is from

*Proverbs 3: **11**My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:*

***12**For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

This chastening is not always corporal, meaning physical. Chastening or correction generally begins with verbal directions. Braking away from the “old man” is met with resistance in our flesh. Even simple things like God given direction in how to run the race we sometimes are met with rebellion in the flesh. IE: do it this way or don’t do it that way, sometimes we take offense at being told how to do something. However, the one who is wise and has wisdom responds to God’s verbal correction or direction with Joy in their heart.

You say, I have never been verbally corrected by God. Oh contrar, if you have read the Bible, you have been given direction by God, which is the beginning of correction/chastening. He is patient with us to allow us to see the wisdom that He is imparting to us through His Word. Now if we are stuck on stupid and reject

His wisdom God is fully capable of stepping up the verbal direction to verbal correction and more.

Hebrews 12:11 - Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Proverbs 12:1 - Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (emphasis mine)

Proverbs 15:32 - He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

Hebrews 12:5-11 - And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: (Read More...)

Proverbs 6:23 - For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: (emphasis mine)

Proverbs 8:33 - Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

Romans 15:4 - For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

John 14:15 - If ye love me, keep my commandments.

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.

Deuteronomy 28:1-68 - And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: (Read More...)

Romans 13:4 - For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Q. What tool does God use the most to correct/chastise those whom He loves?

His Word.

6For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Don't get me wrong I am not questioning our intelligence, I am questioning our stupidity. Depending on the depth of our stupidity IE fleshly decisions, God is quite capable of taking discipline to the next level, one in which in this earthly realm one might likely feel pain. It may be financial pain, it might be comfort pain, it may even involve physical pain. God will not chastise us beyond what we can endure. He is not looking to see how tough we are, He is

looking to see how stubborn and stupid we are. He will go as far as needed to get us turned in the right direction.

August 27, 2023

7If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Again that “chastisement” begins with verbal direction from God’s Word. If we are good at following directions, then no further chastisement is required. God is dealing with us as “sons” of course as we know when God uses the word “sons” it is generically children, meaning both men and women as “descendants”, “heirs”.

From Strong’s Concordance: Greek

*“Transliteration: huios
Phonetic Spelling: (hwee-os’)
Definition: a son
Usage: a son, descendent.”*

*“**5207** **hyiós** – properly, a son (by birth or adoption); (figuratively) anyone sharing the same nature as their Father. For the believer, becoming a son of God begins with being reborn (adopted) by the heavenly Father – through Christ (the work of the eternal Son). In the NT, [5207](#) /**hyiós** (“son”) equally refers to female believers (Gal 3:28).”*

Galatians 3: [26](#)For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. [27](#)For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28](#)There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. [29](#)And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Back to being disciplined. If we persist in being rebellious children then God will simply step up the level and severity of chastisement, moving from verbal to physical if need be.

According to Strong's concordance: Greek

“Transliteration: paideuó

Phonetic Spelling: (pahee-dyoo'-o)

Definition: to train children, to chasten, correct

Usage: (a) I discipline, educate, train, (b) more severely: I chastise.” (emphasis mine)

This process of “chastisement” begins with educating, training and can progress from there if need be. Our training and education begin by studying and reading God's Word. We have seen ample examples of God's Chastisement (punishment) within the Old Testament focusing on Israel's rebellion to the Creator God, refusing to comply with God's Law.

As to the last part of this verse consider this.

[8](#)But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

We found that the initial chastisement (to learn) begins by “education, training”, reading and understanding God’s Word. If you do not even read God’s Word then you are **“without chastisement”** you are an illegitimate child, one of the flesh and not of the Spirit, so God calls you **“bastards and not sons”**.

The very basics of running this race set before us is to study God’s Word. That is where this race starts. If you don’t show up at the starting line, how do you even enter the race? And if you show up at the starting line and just stand there when the gun goes off, what race are you running?

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Most of us know the feeling of physical chastisement from our earthly fathers and or mothers. Some of us were smart enough to correct our behavior with just a stern look from our father or mother. Others of us, like me, were somewhat denser and required a more energetic display of discipline. For those of you who did not require the enhanced discipline, good on you, but you may not fully grasp what God is saying here.

If we gained “respect” “reverence” for our parents through that enhanced contact with a brush, hand, belt, or switch, how much

more should we reverence the Creator God who is fully capable of enhanced discipline in the Spiritual realm that can manifest in the physical realm? Israel learned that lesson time and time again but appears they may have forgotten as has the United States.

Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

10For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Our earthly parents disciplined us the best they saw fit which is meant by ***“after their own pleasure”***. God does not provide physical discipline toward His Children and gain any satisfaction from it, He does it to provide us with a corrected attitude in TRUTH and we gain from it if we have any sense at all. We grow, we live in Joy and Love, Mercy and Grace from our Father in Heaven.

11Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Not many of us looked forward to parental discipline in whatever our folk's thought was best. Kids act differently as we all know, some requiring a stern look others require a physical discipline. In

either of those two methods our desire even as earthly parents was to get our children's attention and correct a bad behavior.

With God as we read His Word and see something we are doing in our lives that does not move us forward in our race to righteousness then some action on His part is necessary if we don't self-correct. That is to repent and turn back to ***“peaceable fruit of righteousness”***

If we respond by simply reading His Word in Truth and change our behavior, then there is a ***“peaceable fruit of righteousness”*** and we are back on the path set before us to run. If He needs to ratchet up the chastisement, so be it. The SEAL's have a saying; “if you're going to be stupid you better be tough.” God doesn't want us tough He wants us pliable to His Word and Truth, in Love, Mercy and Grace. The outcome of His desire in our lives is a life filled with JOY.

12Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

God's point is that He asks us to consider the next step we are going to take, here, now, today. Lift your hands in praise of God, ignore the pain of your weak knees and kneel before your creator God and Worship Him.

Make sure our next step is on sure footing and the right way forward. If we just take off running in any direction without prayerful consideration, we have no idea the path we are on. Most likely we will be reined in by God with gentle persuasion to begin with; to correct our path.

Again, depending on the depth of ignorance or rebellion we exercise will determine God's next approach to correction. So, let's make it easy on ourselves and just patiently and prayerfully consider what is it that God wants us to do in any given situation. It is better to be healed of ignorance or bad moves by the Loving Hand of God than to lose our way completely.

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

It is a mystery that the Creator God would allow evil within His creation, but the simple fact is that He has. We know He stands against evil in all its forms. So, with that knowledge it is incumbent on us as Believers in Him and His Son Jesus the Christ that we share that knowledge and Love with the fallen world through the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot do that if we ourselves are on a wrong path. So, God corrects those whom He loves to get us on the correct path.

Course corrections are a part of life in both this physical world and the Spiritual World, if we have any sense. Minor corrections are much more healthy than large corrections due to inattention or defiance.

A Call to Holiness

(1 Peter 1:13-21)

14Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

There are about several hints for a successful race to be run in these two verses.

1. "Follow peace with all men"

Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

God understands we have likes and dislikes, it is human nature. God is asking us to be at peace with all men as much as that "peace" issue lies with us. In our attitude toward another person, our hearts need to be clean and pure in motive.

Are there people we have dealt with that we just don't care to deal with again. Of course, but that does not mean we should hate

them. Be peaceful with them when encountered, God does not say we have to make them our best friend. Just be tolerant as long as you do not deny God's Word in that tolerance.

2. "Holiness" we have looked at the original Greek in this word before, according to Strong's Concordance:

"Phonetic Spelling: (hag-ee-as-mos')

Definition: consecration, sanctification

Usage: the process of making or becoming holy, set apart, sanctification, holiness, consecration."

It is the sanctification process that is required. Again, if we consider the first verses that used a metaphor describing our walk with Christ as a race, then "sanctification" is that race and the path that we all must run to "become holy". A daily process of being better Christian tomorrow than we were today.

3. *"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God;"*

Looking where? The Word of God is a good place to start.

Then look at those who are good examples of running the race set before them. Learn from your mistakes and the chastening of God. God's Grace is a gift that from our perspective hinges on Faith which is also a gift from God. We don't want to fail in God's Grace. If we get pulled away from the race set before us and pursue some other course, God's Grace will not follow us indefinitely. God has set limits that are non-negotiable.

Hebrews 10:26: For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

An additional problem spoken of here is the collateral damage done by a person proclaiming to be a Believer labors in intentional sin, openly, wantonly, and other Believers and non-believers see his or her actions. For other believers it may be a catalyst to pull them away from running their race set before them. For the non-believer that sees someone who claims to be a Believer and acts as the world acts, what possible draw to Faith in Christ could there be in that. A catastrophe is waiting for not only the person who turns away from God but encourages others through word or deed to do the same. This stems from what Moses was told by God to warn Israel about:

Deuteronomy 29:18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;

Gall is a bitter poisonous herb. Worm wood is perverted Justice.

4. “root of bitterness”

The opposite of Joy may well be best described as bitterness. We have all seen people that seemingly served the Lord and often

due to some personal tragic event in their lives, blames God for their loss and turns away from serving Him out of bitterness.

5. “and thereby many be defiled”;

This was from Moses’ warning in Deuteronomy 29:18

Bitterness can have devastating effects on individual lives and those who observe them act out in bitterness toward God.

16Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

There are several interpretations of these two verses, and some of them seem to struggle to make the point that this is saying that a person who seemed to be repenting was rejected. That does not sound like God at all. So, another understanding is demanded.

I believe what is being expressed here by God was a heart condition. Esau was not repenting; he was begging for a lost blessing from his father with tears for his birthright. It was a thing that he wanted, not a relationship. The very same birthright that he squandered for a meal from Jacob. What is the value you, we, place on Salvation?

It would be like a person that has rejected Christ their whole life and then with tears trying to ply God to give them salvation without really seeking Christ and repenting of their rejection of Christ.

Matthew 7:13 [13](#)Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: [14](#)Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

No, Esau was not seeking to repent for repentance or salvations sake of a relationship with his father Abraham or with God he was seeking to reclaim a blessing from his father that had tangible value; property, animals, people, fleshly power.

Our Kingdom Cannot Be Shaken

[\(Exodus 20:18-21; Deuteronomy 5:22-33\)](#)

[18](#)For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, [19](#)And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: [20](#)(For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: [21](#)And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

Verses 18-21 are a reference to the orders God had given Moses that Moses was to relay to the tribes of Israel about the mountain Mt Sinai where God was going to converse with Moses. God declared that mountain as Holy. When God declares something as Holy, there is no arbitration on that command. IT IS HOLY. End of story.

Exodus 19: [12](#)And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: [13](#)There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

God knew the hearts of Israel; He knew what they were going to do while Moses was on the mountain with God. Moses may have been surprised to see the golden calf his brother conjured up with the people, but God was not surprised. So, taking preventative steps God set boundaries that their sin would not touch the Holy Ground that He and Moses stood on. God will not be defiled by man.

[22](#)But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

First note that the location of God has changed from Mount Sinai on earth to Mt Zion in heaven, where it is declared ***“the City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.”***

In the previous verses it was written as a history of an event that took place after God rescued Israel from Egypt. This is written to someone else. Who? Specifically, to a group of struggling Hebrews, but generally to all Believers.

This event is likely just before the end of the Tribulation or just after the Tribulation but before Jesus sets up His Millennial Kingdom, when Jesus comes to earth and creates a New Jerusalem, one in which He will rule from for a thousand years.

23To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

This verse identifies two other groups; the first is the ***“general assembly”*** is recognition of all that are present in Heaven with God; angels in all their categories, every living creature and Believers. That is taking in the view of everyone and everything present as the General Assembly. The word AND is then used:

And then it identifies this group: ***“and the church of the firstborn”***.(emphasis mine)

These two groups are separated by an “*and*”, which may indicate that they are two separate groups joined together grammatically as a conjunction. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary:

and

“conjunction”

1

—used as a function word to indicate connection or addition especially of items within the same class or type

—used to join sentence elements of the same grammatical rank or function”

If, the General Assembly are those saved from the Old Covenant but are identified at the end of the verse. So, who are the “church of the firstborn”? Who is the Firstborn?

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. (emphasis mine)

Obviously, it is speaking of Jesus the Messiah the overcomer of death and sin.

“Which are written in heaven” is speaking of the Book of Life where all Believers names were entered at or before the creation of the earth. Again, God’s Omniscience and Omnipresence allows

Him to know all who would Believe in Jesus before anything was even created.

“and to God the Judge of all” God the Father is present in His City.

“and to the spirits of just men made perfect,”

This title belongs to those whom Christ brought to Heaven from Paradise. They lived “just” lives according to the Old Testament. Their mere presence in Paradise with Abraham showed some sort of “just” title attached to them.

Strong’s Concordance: **Just**

Phonetic Spelling: (dik'-ah-yos)

Definition: correct, righteous, by implication innocent

Usage: just; especially, just in the eyes of God; righteous; the elect (a Jewish idea).

If we look up the Greek word for righteous in its definition it has the word “just”. Just like this word for “just” has in its definition, “righteous”. So, there is a fine line between the term “righteous and just”. The best way to determine what is meant is by its context and even then there may be little difference.

So, in this last part of the verse ***“and to the spirits of just men made perfect,”*** *It* indicates to me that this is a special group of

people or it is a reference to all those who are Believers, who's "spirits" were made perfect by God's "justification" of them. When God declares something "just" or "justifies" someone then it is uncontestable. They are just. In that sense we are all as believers positionally "justified" by the Blood of Christ upon our being Born Again. God sees us a "just", as in "justified" positionally by and in Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 3:24-26 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ...

What made these "just men" is God's determination, that by the Blood of His Son, anyone who Believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior is Justified/Just, "***made perfect***". (Hebrews 12:23)

September 3, 2023

24And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel*.

There is a combination of times spoken of here. Jesus the mediator, or guarantor is by definition the One in charge He has "Preeminence" (Colossians 1:18) of this New Covenant.

Colossians 1:18 [18](#)And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

In the Old Testament according to God's direction, Moses sprinkled the Israelites with the blood of a sacrifice for their purification.

Abel's blood, we are told, cries out over the centuries for justice from God. God will avenge the blood of Able in a just way, likely at the Great White Throne Judgement.

This New Covenant is based on Truth and Justice determined by the Truth giver and Justifier, Jesus the Creator of all things. It is His Blood that was spilled and speaks better things than that of Abel. Abel's blood cried FOR justice; Jesus Blood IS **Justice**.

Jesus is the last of those listed as being present at this heavenly Jerusalem.

To recap who is present at this Holy Convocation **IN** Heavenly Jerusalem.

Hebrews 12:[22](#)But *ye* are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable *company of angels*, [23](#)To the *general assembly* and *church of the firstborn*, which are written in heaven, and to *God the Judge* of all, and to the *spirits of just men* made perfect, [24](#)And to *Jesus the mediator* of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. (emphasis mine)

Those present:

<i>Angels</i>	<i>Created beings</i>
<i>General Assembly</i>	<i>All creatures in attendance</i>
<i>Church of First Born</i>	<i>Believers</i>
<i>God</i>	<i>The Father</i>
<i>Spirit of just men</i>	<i>Old Testament Believers/Tribulation survivors?</i>
<i>Jesus</i>	<i>The Messiah</i>

25See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more *shall not we escape*, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven:

Those on earth who rejected or reject Christ now will not escape. Jesus spoke on earth and men refused Him. He is now speaking from the Throne Room from Heaven. If those on earth could not escape when He spoke from earth, imagine anyone escaping now that He is speaking from the New Heavenly Jerusalem, sometime in the not to distant future.

26Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

The Heavens spoken of here is not the Heaven God's abode but the heavens above the earth which are seen. God is saying that

He is going to shake all of creation. He has a specific purpose in this statement as you would expect.

27And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

The things shaken are those which fall short of the Glory of God. Those things which have been tainted by sin and have no place in God's Kingdom. He made them perfect, and man tainted them with sin. They will be removed. Only those things which are perfect in God's sight will remain. The Church and its Head are perfect in God's sight.

28Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29For our God *is* a consuming fire.

The immoveable object, God of Creation and His Kingdom. Creation can be moved, not by man but by God. God is asking us to be gracious like He was gracious to us. His Grace is undeserved by any man or woman. He extended His Grace by His Mercy to us who deserve no Mercy. Through Grace we will serve the Creator God and show Him the Reverence and Godly Fear He is due. The alternative is a fire that consumes, and that fire is God.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James