

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
August 25, 2024

"Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God." – Psalm 87:3



trinityreformedct.org

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Isaiah 60:1-5

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

People: And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Leader: For behold, darkness will cover the earth

People: And deep darkness the peoples;

Leader: But the LORD will rise upon you

People: And His glory will appear upon you.

Leader: Nations will come to your light,

People: And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Leader: Lift up your eyes round about and see;

People: They all gather together, they come to you.

Leader: Your sons will come from afar,

People: And your daughters will be carried in the arms.

Leader: Then you will see and be radiant,

People: And your heart will thrill and rejoice;

Leader: Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you,

People: The wealth of the nations will come to you.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Psalm 87

***Hymn #642** (red hymnal) – “Be Thou My Vision”

Scripture Reading – Ezra 5:1-6:12; John 2:13-21

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sung Psalm #87A** (see insert below) – “The LORD’S Foundation”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Savoy Declaration (1658 AD), 26.5.

Leader:	<i>As the Lord in His care and love towards His Church, has in His infinite wise providence exercised it with great variety in all ages,</i>	Acts 7:1-51; Acts 14:22;
People:	For the good of them that love Him,	Acts 8:1;
Leader:	<i>And His own glory;</i>	Acts 9:31
People:	So according to His promise, we expect that in the latter days,	
Leader:	<i>Antichrist being destroyed, the Jews called,</i>	2Thes 2:8-10; Rev 18:2,4,21; 17:16 Rom 10:1; 11:23-32
People:	And the adversaries of the kingdom of His dear Son broken,	Ps 110:1; 2:9
Leader:	<i>The churches of Christ being enlarged, and edified through a free and plentiful communication of light and grace, shall enjoy in this world a more quiet, peaceable and glorious condition</i>	Is 11:9; Joel 2:28-29; Is 2:2-4; Mic 4:3; Ps 87:2-7;
People:	Than they have enjoyed.	Dan 7:27

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Haggai 2:6-9

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Sermon – “Glorious Things”

(A Sermon Series on The Book of Haggai)

***Hymn #345** (red hymnal) – “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship

Announcements

- For those interested in Pastor Doug’s Sunday School class (starting on Sept 8th), or just in theology in general, the book we will be reading, The Westminster Larger Catechism with Scripture Proofs, is in and it costs \$10.00. (If money is tight, please still ask for the book.)

Upcoming Special Events

- Starting on **September 1st**, Sunday **Worship** starts at **10:30 AM**.
- On Saturday, **September 7th**, there will be a **picnic** for the church at the Winters' house, starting at **noon**. (1448 Burt Hill Rd; Tolland, MA 01034). The Winters will provide pizza. If you could bring a dish to share, lawn chairs for yourself, and/or your favorite outdoor game, that would be helpful.
- **Sunday School**, for all ages, **starts on September 8th**, with the following classes:
Children's Sunday School classes based on the KVB Publications curriculum.
Pastor Doug will be leading an adult study on the Westminster Larger Catechism.
Verna Aldrich will be leading a womens study on cults.
- **Tuesday Morning Study** starts on **September 10th** from 10:30 AM to noon.
It will be an introduction to medieval theology and reading through sections from Aquinas.
- **Wednesday Evening Study** starts on **September 11th** from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.
It will be an introduction about the origins of the Bible and studying 2Peter and Jude.
- On Saturday, September 21st, there will be a joint Elders & Deacons' meeting at Pastor Doug's house.
- After church on Sunday, **November 10th**, will be the **Annual Meeting**.

ONLINE RESOURCES

<i>TRC's Webpage:</i>	TrinityReformedCT.org
<i>TRC's Facebook Page:</i>	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
<i>TRC's Youtube Channel:</i>	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
<i>Pastor Doug's</i>	youtube.com/simplyreformed
<i>Youtube Channels:</i>	youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests you would like for, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

<i>Elders:</i>	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	860-283-0224	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
<i>Deacons:</i>	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
<i>Sunday School:</i>	Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell	<i>Music Coordinator:</i>	Cindy Rines
<i>Clerk:</i>	Sheryl Gabelmann	<i>Treasurer:</i>	Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 - *Phone:* (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org - *Email:* trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

Haggai 2:6-9

"Glorious Things"

A Sermon Series on Haggai

August 25, 2024

Introduction

- 1) It is 520 BC.
 - a) Israel, God's Old Testament church, has returned to their homeland from captivity in Babylon by the grace of God, through the Persian emperors (Cyrus, Darius) who had conquered the evil Babylonians. 2Chr 36:10-23
 - b) God sends the prophet Haggai, and later Zechariah, to command His people to rebuild God's House (i.e. the Temple) which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. Ezra 1:3; 2:1-2
Hag 1:1-11
Zech 1:7ff
 - c) At first the work goes well, but soon it slows as the people lose enthusiasm. Hag 2:3
 - d) It seems, the new Temple is just not that impressive as the old one.
- 2) Remember, the Temple is that unique building in the Old Testament where God dwelt in a special way to be with His people. Ex 25:8; 1Kgs 6:1-38;
Ps 26:8; Ezek 43:4-7
 - a) The First Temple was built by King Solomon. John 10:23
It is called by historians "Solomon's Temple."
 - b) The Second Temple was built during the time of Haggai.
It is called the "Second Temple" or Zerubbabel's Temple, after the governor of Judah that Haggai's prophecies are directed to. Ezra 3:2ff; Zech 4:6ff
Hag 1:1,12,14
Hag 2:2,4,21,23
 - c) From c. 20 BC – 12 AD, King Herod dramatically expanded and renovated the Second Temple to such an extent it is called "Herod's Temple."
- 3) Haggai's second sermon to encourage the people, at first, it is pretty straightforward:
 - a) First, the problem is directly stated, (the people see the new Temple as not that impressive, it looks like "nothing") Hag 2:3
 - b) God, through His prophet Haggai, tells governor Zerubbabel, the high priest Joshua, and the people to:
 - i) Take courage, literally be (moral) strong. Hag 2:4
 - ii) They are to "work" – To continue rebuilding the Temple. Hag 2:4
 - iii) God reminds them that He is with His people. Hag 2:4
 - iv) God reminds them of how He has been with them - He has promised them good, as seen by bringing them out of slavery in Egypt, under Moses hundreds of years earlier. Hag 2:5
 - v) Therefore, they should not fear (the world). Hag 2:5
- 4) But then the LORD makes a dramatic statement. That He will act with power which is what today's sermon text is about. Hag 2:6-9

God's Dramatic Promise to Zerubbabel and the People

- 1) God speaks: "*For thus saith the LORD of hosts . . .*" – Haggai 2:6b (KJV)
 - a) Remember, the Bible is God's written Word, it is special revelation directly from God. When Scripture speaks, God speaks.
 - b) This is no generic god but the one true God, whose name is "I Am." ("LORD", in all caps, is God's personal name, spelled YHWH.)
 - c) God is the "I Am of Hosts", referring to the heavenly hosts, angels. "Host" means "army, entourage".

- 2) God is going to act soon: “. . . *Once more in a little while . . .*” - Haggai 2:6b.
 - a) The Hebrew is a bit strange here.
 - b) It is literally: “*yet once, it is little*” or “*yet once, a little while*”.
 - c) The general point is clear. However, God is going to act decisively and soon.
- 3) What is God going to do?
 - a) He is going to shake the creation.
 - b) Haggai 2:6c-7a – “. . . *I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. I will shake all the nations . . .*”
 - c) Something dramatic is going to happen that affects all the creation, whether physically or spiritually.
- 4) What is the purpose of this shaking?
 - a) The nations “*will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,*’ says the LORD of hosts.” – Haggai 2:7b
 - b) Because all things belong unto the Lord.
Haggai 2:8 – “*The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,*’ declares the LORD of hosts.”
- 5) The outcome of this?
 - a) This new House, being built by Zerubbabel, will actually be greater than Solomon’s Temple.
 - b) The people’s fears are wrong because God is going to act!
 - c) Not just in worldly glory but also in purpose – Peace will be given to this Temple, not just to Israel but to all the nations.
 - d) Haggai 2:9 – “*The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,*’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘*and in this place I will give peace,*’ declares the LORD of hosts.”

The Big Question – When?

- 1) When dealing with prophecy there are usually many questions: What does this mean? Who is this talking about? Why is this in the Bible? Where is this happening? Etc.
- 2) Probably the biggest question is “when”?
 - a) When does this prophecy happen / When is it fulfilled?
 - b) We will be talking a lot about this when we preach through a section of Revelation this fall!
- 3) In Pastor Doug’s opinion it is critical to remember that most, though not all, of prophecies in the Bible are layered, they have several meanings,
 - a) Including, and especially the “when” question.
 - b) Unlike most modern approaches to prophecy (since the 19th century on), which demand only one, flattened, supposedly “literal” reading.
 - c) To give a few examples:¹

¹ To give a few more examples:

- Isaiah 7:14-16 is both about a baby born during the reign of Ahaz & Jesus Christ.
- Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11 is both about the destruction of the Temple in c. 167 BC, the destruction of the Temple 70 AD and the near destruction of the church in the end times during the Great Tribulation. (Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14; Luke 21:20)
- Zechariah 14:6-9 is both about the 1st & 2nd Advent of Christ.

Let alone such texts as: Deut 17:14-20; Micah 5:1ff; Matt 24:1ff (24:34); Luke 10:18.

- i) *Question:* Is Ezekiel 28:11-19 about the fall of Satan or the evil king of Tyre?
Answer: Yes!
 - ii) *Question:* Is 2Samuel 7:8-17 about King Solomon or Jesus Christ?
Answer: Yes!
 - iii) *Question:* Is Joel 2:28-32 speaking about OT king Josiah, or the first NT Pentecost, or the future end of the age? *Answer:* Yes! Acts 2:14ff
Rev 6:12ff
 - d) This is also seen in the direct, common, and yet cryptic, concept of “the Day of the Lord” or “in that day”.²
 - e) Let alone that many future prophecies are given in the past tense, showing that in the mind of God, all things have been fulfilled.
- 4) This is very true of Haggai 2:6-9

When Does The Prophecy of Haggai 2:6-9 Happen?

- 1) Haggai 2:6-9 prophecy (God bringing glory to His House) is fulfilled during several times.
- 2) First, it is fulfilled in Zerubbabel’s time. Ezra 5:1-6:15
 - a) We read in the OT history book of Ezra that the Persian officials Tattenai (governor of Samaria – the former northern Jewish Kingdom of Israel) and Shethar-bozenai (maybe a royal scribe) at first have problems with the Jews rebuilding the Temple. Ezra 5:3,6
Ezra 6:6,13
 - i) They write back to Persia asking instructions from the king. (The copy of the letter is actually in the Bible.) Ezra 5:6ff
 - ii) The new king Darius, of Haggai’s time, finds a decree that the previous king Cyrus had commanded, that not only the Temple be rebuilt, but the Persians financially support the effort. 2Chr 36:22-23
Ezra 1:1-11
Haggai 1:1,15; 2:10
Ezra 6:1-15
 - b) Both Cyrus and Darius, Persian emperors, financially supported the rebuilding of the Temple. 2Chr 36:23; Ezra 1:2
Ezra 6:1-12
 - c) The Persian Empire at this time is huge, covering numerous nations, thus, fulfilling Haggai’s prophecy.³
- 3) Next, the final stage of Zerubbabel’s Temple, i.e. Herod’s Temple, was the grandest building every built by the ancient Jews.
 - a) Herod "the Great" (c.72 BC - c.4 AD) was the Roman Jewish client king of Judea.
 - b) Herod engaged in many building programs, the most famous, being the massive reconstruction of Zerubbabel's Temple in c.20 BC - c. 11 AD.
 - c) It was one of the largest reconstruction projects of the 1st century BC.
 - d) This was the Temple during our Lord Jesus' earthly ministry.
 - e) It was destroyed by the Romans, as per biblical prophecy, in 70 A.D. Matt 26:61; 27:40; Mark 14:58; 15:29
John 2:19-21; Acts 6:14

² “Day of the Lord.” = Is 13:6,9; 58:13; Lam 2:22; Ezek 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18,20; Obad 15; Zeph 1:7-8,14,18; 2:2-3; Mal 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1Cor 5:5; 1Thes 5:2; 2Thes 2:2; 2Pet 3:10. “The Lord’s Day” = Rev 1:10. “In that day” = Lev 7:35; Num 32:10; Deut 31:17-18; 1Sam 3:12; 8:18; (40 times in Isaiah); Jer 4:9; 48:41; 49:22,26; 50:30; Hos 2:16,18,21; Joel 3:18; Amos 2:16; 8:3,9,13; 9:11; Micah 4:6; 5:10; Zeph 3:11,16; (20 times in Zechariah); Mark 2:20; Luke 6:23; 10:12; John 14:20; 16:23,26.

³ According to Wikipedia’s “List of Largest Empires”, the Achaemenid (i.e. Persian) Empire was the 19th largest empire in world history, controlling 2.12 million square miles and taking up 4.08% of the world.

- 4) The true meaning of the glory and peace God speaks about in Haggai is Christ's spiritual body on earth, His church.
- a) Because the physical things of the OT (land, Temple, sacrifices, priests, prophets, kings) are mere shadows and figures of the reality and clarity of the NT. Col 2:17
Heb 8:5; 10:1
 - b) This is clearly taught in Hebrews 12, so let us ponder the New Testament teaching.
 - c) And when the NT interprets the OT, that interpretation is authoritative.

Hebrews 12:18-29

- 1) Hebrews is the NT book about the deity of Christ and the superiority of His new covenant.
 - a) It's easily one of the top ten, if not top five, biblical books a Christian should know.
 - b) Only Romans rivals it in the NT for depth of systematic theology.
 - c) However, to understand the NT, especially Hebrews, you have to know the OT.
- 2) Starting in Hebrews 12:18ff the author of Hebrews compares . . .
 - a) **Sinai**, in Hebrews 12:18-21, which is the mountain in the Old Covenant where God spoke to His OT church and gave the Law through Moses.
. . . with . . .
 - b) **Zion**⁴, in Hebrews 12:22-24, which in the NT means God's spiritual kingdom, Christ's spiritual body, the heavenly Jerusalem.
 - c) This is a contrast between two revelations.
 - i) God speaking "*on earth*" in the Old Covenant. Heb 12:25
 - ii) And the superiority of God speaking "*from heaven*" in the New Covenant. Heb 12:25
- 3) Remember my suggested first two critical rules to read the Bible:
 - a) #1 – Context! Context! Context!
 - b) #2 – Unpack the Pronouns. (Which is very important for this Hebrew text.)
- 4) We read about **Sinai** in Hebrews 12:18-21 . . .

18	<i>For you (NT church) have not come to a mountain (OT Sinai) that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,</i>	Ex 19:12,16ff; 20:18; Deut 4:11; 5:22
19	<i>and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard (OT church at Sinai) begged that no further word be spoken to them.</i>	Ex 19:16,19; 20:18-19; Deut 4:12; 5:25; 18:16

⁴ The name Zion evolves throughout the Bible. Originally, Zion was the name of the Jebusite (the original inhabitants of Jerusalem) fortress on the southeast hill of Jerusalem, which was conquered by King David. (Josh 15:63; Judg 19:10-11; 2Sam 5:6-9; 1Chr 11:4-8) Zion came to mean not only the fortress, but the hill on which the fortress stood. (2Sam 5:7) When David's son Solomon built the Temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem (a different hill from Zion) the Ark of the Covenant was moved to the Temple. The meaning of "Zion" was expanded to include the Temple and its surrounding area. (Ps 2:6; 48:2,11-12; 132:13) Soon Zion came to mean the whole city of Jerusalem, where David built his citadel and palace. (1Kgs 8:1; 2Kgs 19:21,31; 1Chr 11:5; 2Chr 5:2; Ps 87:2; 149:2; Is 33:14; Joel 2:1). Next Zion came to mean the land of Judah and then the entire nation of Israel. (Is 40:9; Jer 31:12; Zech 9:13)

Zion also took on a deeper theological meaning. It could refer to where God Himself dwells and reigns. (Ps 9:11; 50:2; 74:2; 76:2; 99:2; 135:21; Is 8:18; 24:23; Jer 31:6; Joel 3:17,21; Mic 4:7) Because God Himself speaks from Zion. (Is 2:3; Mic 4:2) God will save Zion. (Ps 69:35; 102:13; 126:1; 132:13; Is 1:27; 14:32; 30:19; 60:14; 62:1; Obad 17; Zech 1:17; 8:3) Zion will praise and worship the Lord. (Ps 65:1; 102:16,21; 137:3; 147:12; 149:2) And salvation will come from Zion. (Ps 14:7; 20:2; 53:6; Is 46:13; 51:3)

Because the Messiah will come from Zion (Ps 2; Is 28:16; 59:20-21; 62:11-12; Zech 9:9; Matt 21:5; John 12:15) and Zion is fulfilled in Christ and His glory. (Rom 9:33; 11:26; Heb 12:22; 1Pet 2:6; Rev 14:1)

20 For **they** (OT church) could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned." Ex 19:12ff

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am full of fear and trembling." Deut 9:19

5) Then we read about **Zion** in Hebrews 12:22-24 . . .

22 But **you** (NT church) have come to (the true) **Mount Zion** and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to **myriads of angels** (i.e. the heavenly hosts),

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new (and better) covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of **Abel**.⁵

6) It's tempting to stop at verse 24, however, the chapter keeps on going . . .

25 See to it that **you** (NT church) do not refuse **Him** (God the Father) who is speaking. For if **those** (the OT church at Sinai) did not escape (killed during the golden calf incident, wandering in the wilderness, etc.) when **they** (OT church at Sinai) refused **him** (Moses, who spoke for God) who warned them on earth, much less will **we** (NT church) escape who turn away from **Him** (God the Father) who warns from heaven. Deut 5:28-29
Ex 20:22

26 And His (God the Father's) voice shook the earth **then** (back at Sinai), but **now** (New Covenant) He has promised, saying, "**Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.**" (In Haggai 2:6!) Ex 19:18
Judg 5:4ff

27 This expression, "**Yet once more,**" denotes the removing of those **things which can be shaken** (the shadows & figures of the OT – Sinai, Temple, Priesthood, Jewish kings, the land in Palestine, etc.), as of created things, so that those **things which cannot be shaken** may remain. (the Kingdom of Christ!)

28 Therefore, since **we** (NT church) receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken (Christ's NT Kingdom), let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

29 for **our** (all the saint's) God is a consuming fire. Deut 4:24; 9:3; Is 33:14;
2Thes 1:7; Heb 10:27, 31

Conclusion

- 1) How glorious is Christ's Church!
- 2) All of creation, the physical world, the spiritual world and all the nations have been shaken by God to bring glory to His house.
 - a) We are testimonies to this.
 - b) Haggai and Zerubbabel had no clue that fellow saints from all different nations (most of us not Jewish) would gather some 5,600 miles, and 2,500 years later in Winchester Center in 2024.
 - i) We here today are part of 2.4 billion people who claim to be Christian and that 50% of the world claims to follow the God of Abraham (i.e. Christians, Jews & Muslims) – Of course only those who believe in Christ are true believers.

⁵ Abel was killed by his brother Cain. Cain was the first human born on earth to Adam & Eve and the first murder, which shows the fallen nature of man. Abel's blood cried out from the ground for vengeance. (Gen 4:10) Jesus' blood speaks "a better word" which brings salvation to His people. (Heb 10:19)

- ii) Though the OT saints had faith in the promises of God,
and therefore, so should we because we have the gifts
of history and of being on the other side of the cross!
- 3) We have been given Christ's Spirit, we and new creatures in Christ, destined for heaven and
Christ's perfect Kingdom at the end of this age.
- 4) We, the nations (i.e. Christians of all different ethnic backgrounds), bring our wealth to the
church.
 - a) That is why we tithe (give the first portion of our wealth) to the Lord.
 - b) Why? Because, "*the silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts.*"
- Haggai 2:8
- 5) The glory of God's NT House (the church) is far greater than the Temple in OT.
 - a) Because "*in this place*" God "*will give peace*" to all the nations.
 - i) From the church goes forth the Gospel which binds people to heaven
or looses them unto eternal destruction.
 - ii) In the church the saints are feed the Gospel in the ministry of the word.
 - b) You have perfect peace with God now, through Christ – The perfect High Priest and
the once and for all perfect Sacrifice.
 - c) Praise God that we don't have to go to a mountain where God is obscured by a cloud,
less His holiness destroy us.
 - i) This is not just God speaking "on earth" (which is amazing),
 - ii) But God speaking "from heaven"! John 3:13,31; 8:23
(Because the Word of God became incarnate!)
 - d) Instead, we "*have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly
Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the
firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits
of the righteous made perfect,*" - Hebrews 12:22b-23
 - i) How?
 - ii) By "*Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant*" His blood which perfectly covers us.
- 6) Praise God that He has removed all the shadows and figures of the Old Covenant!
 - a) Where the earthly OT Kingdom of Israel could, and has, been shaken.
 - b) Christ's Kingdom will not be shaken! (The world cannot destroy this Temple – though
they will try, because our King cannot be killed.)
 - c) Therefore how can we not "*show/have gratitude, by which we may offer to God an
acceptable service with reverence and awe;*" - Hebrews 12:28b
- 7) Because always remember: "*our God is a consuming fire.*" – Hebrews 12:29b