

**“Coming Soon?”**  
**Hebrews 10:26-39, Pt. 2**  
**July 21, 2024**

**I. Tension in Heb. 10:26-39**

- A. Seeming references to the final judgment (10:27, 37), yet also references to a short time frame. (10:37, also see 10:25)
- B. Such tension is seen elsewhere in the New Testament (1 Pet. 4:7a; James 5:8-9; Matt. 24:34; Rev. 1:1, 3; 22:10, 26)

**II. Resolving the Tension**

- A. Common Approach – taking the *event* references as literal, but the *time* references as figurative. (as in “near” means “could happen any time in any age”)
  - 1. Yet we don’t normally use time references that way.
  - 2. Neither does the Bible.
- B. A Different Approach – taking the *event* references figuratively while taking the *time* references literally.
  - 1. There is much Biblical precedent for taking final judgment sounding language in a figurative way.
  - 2. What about “a fury of fire” in Heb. 10:27?

*Jeremiah 21:11–12* - <sup>11</sup> “And to the house of the king of Judah say, ‘Hear the word of the Lord, <sup>12</sup> O house of David! Thus says the Lord: “ ‘Execute justice in the morning, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed, lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of your evil deeds.’ ”

*Lamentations 2:4* - He [the Lord] has bent his bow like an enemy, with his right hand set like a foe; and he has killed all who were delightful in our eyes in the tent of the daughter of Zion; he has poured out his fury like fire.

*Lamentations 4:11* - The Lord gave full vent to his wrath; he poured out his hot anger, and he kindled a fire in Zion that consumed its foundations.

*Isaiah 29:6* - You will be visited by the Lord of hosts with thunder and with earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire.

- a. All the above prophecies (or laments) refer to the military destruction of historical cities and nations.

- b. Yet the figurative language of God's burning wrath is used.
3. What about the Lord coming in a little while in Heb. 10:37?

*Isaiah 19:1* - An oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.

*Micah 1:3-4* - For behold, the Lord is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. <sup>4</sup> And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place.

- a. The above are also all prophecies of the military destruction of historical cities and nations.
  - b. Yet the figurative language of "the Lord is coming" is used.
- C. Hebrews 10:26-39 is using this same language in a figurative way to refer to the eminent destruction of Jerusalem, as Jesus foretold:

*Luke 19:43-44* - <sup>43</sup> For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.

- D. Hebrews' readers, living near 70 AD, needed to remain faithful in light of that coming judgment upon all Judea.