

Mt. Sinai or Mt. Zion?



HEBREWS 12:18-29

AUGUST 2, 2015

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- 18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."



- 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly 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 covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.



- 25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."



- 27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Five Warnings in Hebrews



1. **Neglect** - Ch. 2 – “How can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.”
2. **Unbelief** – Ch. 3 – “...do not have an evil unbelieving heart...”
3. **Tradition** – Ch. 5-6 – “You have become dull of hearing.”
4. **Impatience** – Ch. 10 – Hold fast, don’t waver, don’t neglect meeting together
5. **Fear** – Ch. 12 – “Don’t live in fear and refuse him who is speaking.”

Overview



- **The Big Idea: Why be Afraid? You are not approaching Sinai, you're coming to Zion!**

Outline

1. A Heavenly Contrast (vv. 18-24)
2. An Unshakable Kingdom (vv.25-29)

1. A Heavenly Contrast (18-24)



- Exodus 19:10-19 - The Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.'



- When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." ...On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.



- Exodus 20:18-21 - Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.



- **Hebrews 12:18-21 - For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."**



- **The Citizens of Heaven**
 - Innumerable angels (v.22)
 - The church (v.23) (Phil. 3:20; Luke 10:20)
 - God (v.23)
 - Old Testament Saints (v.23)
 - Jesus Christ the Mediator (v.24)
- **Why so little preaching about Heaven?**
 - Unknown reality
 - Too attached and comfortable
 - Satanic confusion

2. An Unshakable Kingdom (vv.25-29)



- **25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.**
 - Who is speaking? God is!
 - Haggai 2:6 -For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.
- **27 – “Yet once more”**
- If God shook Mt. Sinai, how much greater will he shake the heavens.
- **28 – Offer to God “acceptable worship with reverence and awe.”**
- **29 – God is a consuming fire.**

Final Thoughts



- Listen
- Receive
- Focus
- Run
- Look to Jesus
- Claim the promises

The exhortation: You have nothing to fear. Mt. Zion is your permanent and eternal address.