

SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 12:18-24, we find a contrast between Mt. Sinai's Old Covenant and Mt. Zion's New Covenant.

I. You have *not* come to Mt. Sinai:

- A. May be touched (v. 18b)
- B. Blazing fire (v. 18c).
- C. Darkness (v. 18d).
- D. Gloom (v. 18e).
- E. Tempest (v. 18f).
- F. Sound of a trumpet (v. 19a).
- G. A voice . . .
 - 1. Whose words were refused (v. 19b).
 - 2. Whose orders could not be endured (v. 20).
 - 3. Which terrified even Moses (v. 21).

II. But you *have* come to Mt. Zion:

- A. City of the living God/heavenly Jerusalem (v. 21a, b).
- B. Innumerable angels in festal gathering (v. 21c).
- C. Assembly of the firstborn (v. 23a).
- D. God, the judge of all (v. 23b).
- E. Spirits of the righteous made perfect (v. 23c).
- F. Jesus, the mediator of a New Covenant (v. 24a).
- G. Sprinkled blood (v. 24b) . . .
 - 1. Which speaks a better word (of grace) (v. 24c).
 - 2. Better than Abel's blood (which spoke of vengeance) (v. 24d).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 6, 2021

Passage: Hebrews 12:18-24

Memory Passage: Hebrews 12:22-24

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:18-24.** As preparation for this week's study, read Exodus 19-20 and take notes about what you learn.
- (b) Read Heb. 12:18-24 with an eye toward structure. Take note of repeated words or phrases, main verbs, sentence structure, contrasts or comparisons, etc. How many main sections do you see, and how many subsections? Where are your divisions?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:18-24.** To what mountain have our author's readers "not come," and why might he not refer to its name?
- (b) Explain each of the 7 phrases used to describe the place to which they "have not come" (vs. 18b-19), and what they collectively convey.
- (c) What message did they hear, who did the speaking, and why would they "beg that no further messages be spoken to them (v. 19)?"
- (d) Why could they "not endure the order that was given" (cf. Ex. 19:12-13)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:18-24.** What does the adversative "but" which begins v. 22 convey about what follows?
- (b) Explain each of the three ways our author describes the place to which he now refers (v. 22)?
- (c) Why do you think he mentions the name of the place to which they "have come" (v. 22) but did not specifically mention the name of the place to which they "have not come" (v. 18)?
- (d) Is there any significance to the fact (and if so, what is it) that our author speaks of Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion using 7 descriptors each (count each of the 3 names of Mt. Zion as one descriptor; count the uses of "to" in vs. 22-24)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:18-24.** What does the presence of "innumerable angels in festal gathering" tell us about the activities done in the heavenly Jerusalem (cf. Deut. 33:2; Dan. 7:10; Heb. 1:7)?
- (b) Who comprises "the assembly of the firstborn" (hint: the Greek word translated "firstborn" is plural)?
- (c) Who are "the spirits of the righteous made perfect" (cf. 2:10; 5:9; 7:19, 28; 9:9; 10:1, 14; 11:40)?
- (d) Summarize what v. 24 teaches (which summarizes much of Hebrews) concerning Jesus & His New Covenant.
- (e) In what way is Jesus' blood a "better word" than Abel's?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:12-24 & Gal. 4:21-31.** What is the primary contrast in Heb. 12:18-24 according to Gal. 4:21-31?
- (b) Using one word for each, describe Mt. Sinai's Old Covenant & Mt. Zion's New Covenant as brought in Heb. 12:18-24
- (c) Contrast the relationship with God in the Old Covenant and New Covenant according to 12:18-24?
- (d) How do these contrasts encourage our author's first-century readers not to fall away and return to the Old Covenant?
- (e) As you consider the "already & not yet" orientation of our passage (cf. 4:14-16; 6:19-20, 10:19-22, et al.) and the relationship you have with Christ in the New Covenant, in what ways are you encouraged to live a worshipful & obedient life to God's glory? Avoid shallow applications! Think through the festive, joyful, intimate, close relationship you have in Christ!

DATE: June 6, 2021

PASSAGE: Hebrews 12:18-24

Two Mountains