

Concluding Exhortations

The Contrast Of The “Two Mountains” & The Stability Of The N.T. Kingdom (Heb. 12:18-29)

Introduction

The texts in this lesson contain the author’s final exhortation based on the overall theme of the epistle. The 2 covenants are once again compared side by side...this time, using the metaphor of a mountain. God’s O.T. people had a mountain...Sinai. They came to their mountain after being redeemed from bondage to become a covenant people. Likewise today, God’s N.T. people have their mountain...Zion. They come to their “mountain” after being freed from sin (cp. Jn. 8:31-34). It is there they embrace their covenant with God (cp. 1 Pet. 2:4-10). The N.T. kingdom cannot be shaken...it will endure forever (cp. Dan. 2:44).

The Contrast Of The “Two Mountains” (Heb. 12:18-24)

1. What does the author describe in vv. 18-21, and where is this recorded in the Scripture?
Thought question: what was God’s “challenge” to Israel on that occasion? (cp. Ex. 19:5-6)

2. What about man having access to God is emphasized in that event? (v. 20; cp. 9:6-9) How is that different today? (cp. 4:14-16) Though not in the original record at Ex. 19, what was Moses’ reaction that eventful day? (v. 21)

3. Overall, how is Sinai depicted in vv. 18-21?

4. By contrast, list the things to which God’s people have come on Mt. Zion. (vv. 22-24)

a)

b)

c)

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d)

e)

f)

g)

5. *Research assignment:* be able to identify Zion historically as well as its use in Scripture as the name of the N.T. kingdom.

6. How is the city of God described? (v. 22; cp. 11:10) How do God's saints feel about it? (cp. 11:14; 13:14)

7. What were we taught about angels? (cp. 1:14) What does the Bible say about "heaven's roll?" (cp. Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5) Who else besides "living saints" are there? (cp. 11:13, 39-40; 1 Thess. 4:13; Rev. 14:13)

8. What mediator was present at Mt. Sinai? What mediator is present at Mt. Zion? (cp. 4:15; 1 Tim. 2:5) What "better things" does Jesus' blood speak than does Abel's? (cp. Gen. 4:10; Mt. 26:28)

9. As one would compare these two "mountains" side by side, what is the lesson to be learned? How does it support the overall theme of the epistle?

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The Stability Of The N.T. Kingdom (*Heb. 12:25-29*)

10. How does the author exhort his readers (and us, too) based on what he has just presented? (v. 25)
Who are the 2 "hims" he speaks of in v. 25? How are we able to identify them?

11. In v. 26, from where does the author quote? What is his use of this passage?

12. The conclusion is reached in v. 27...what is it? How does it support the epistle's overall theme? How "solid" or "stable" is the N.T. kingdom? (v. 28a; cp. Mt. 24:35; Lk. 1:33)

13. How does the God of this kingdom want His people to approach Him? (v. 28b) What would motivate His people to serve Him acceptably? (v. 29; cp. 10:31) Do you see any connection of this phrase back to the description of vv. 18-21?