



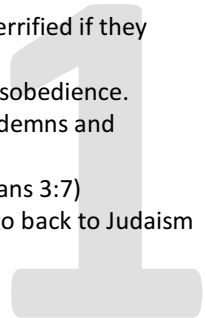
## Lesson 75

### Lesson 75: Two Mountains/Warning #5

**Scripture:** Hebrews 12:18-29

#### **Two Mountains: Mount Sinai (Law)** (Hebrews 12:18-21)

- “you have not come to the mountain than may be touched” – as did the Israelites in the wilderness at Mount Sinai
- Exodus 19:9-15 speaks of the preparations that God required before the giving of His law.
- (Exodus 19:21-25) God is so concerned with the people keeping His commandments that He sends Moses down a second time to warn the people.
- (Exodus 19:16-19) God reveals Himself in a thick cloud, sounding of the trumpet blast, smoke, fire, and a mighty earthquake.
- God’s purpose was to demonstrate to the people the absolute unapproachableness of God. Sinful man could not come near God and live.
- This was a very fearful sight! In Exodus 20:18-19 it is plain that the people were terrified! Interestingly, they ask Moses to “mediate” for them – they asked for a mediator!
- In Deuteronomy 9:19 (Hebrews 12:21) Moses writes, "For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you . . ." after the Israelites failed to heed (obey) the warnings (commands) of God!
- Moses tells the people that there is no reason to be terrified if they obey!
- (Exodus 20:20) There is every reason to fear God in disobedience.
- Mount Sinai is a picture of the **LAW** and the **LAW** condemns and punishes man!
- The **LAW** is the “the ministry of death . . .” (2 Corinthians 3:7)
- The writer of Hebrews is warning his readers that to go back to Judaism is to go back to fear, judgment and death!!



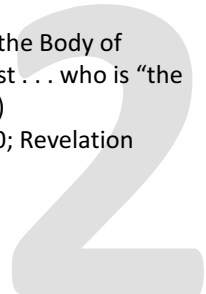
- Hebrews 10:31 reminds us that for the unforgiven sinner, “It is a **terrifying thing** to fall into the hands of the living God!”

## Two Mountains: Mount Zion (Grace) (Hebrews 12:22a)

- (v. 22) **BUT** . . . These Hebrew readers find themselves before another “mountain” that **cannot be touched** because it is not physical but spiritual.
- They have come to Mount Zion which represents the heavenly Jerusalem.
- This “**mountain**” “cannot be touched” but is approachable!
- The LAW cannot save and only by grace is anyone saved.
- “**Zion**” is where God has chosen to dwell – it is the city of the living God. (Psalm 132:13-14)
- “**Sinai**” was pictured as a thick cloud, lightning, thunder, terrifying trumpet blasts, and quaking earth. “**Zion**” is pictured a something of beauty and God Himself shining forth (see Psalm 50:2).
- “**Sinai**” represented **DEATH**. “**Zion**” represents “ **blessing – LIFE forever**” (Psalm 133:3)
- Christians **are citizens** of this heavenly city! (Philippians 3:20)

## Blessings of Coming to “Mount Zion” (Hebrews 12:22b-24)

- ① “city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” – “Zion” is heaven itself!
  - (Hebrews 11:10) This is the city Abraham searched (or longed) for.
  - Paul compares “Sinai” as the mountain of bondage and “the heavenly Jerusalem” as the mountain of freedom. (See Galatians 4:25-31)
- ② “festal gathering” – “general assembly” can be translated “festal gathering” of the innumerable company of angels that surround the throne of God. (See Daniel 7:10; Revelation 5:11). An great gathering of angels were at Mount Sinai in the giving of the Law (Galatians 3:19) but no one was allowed to join them.
- ③ Membership in “the church of the first born” – this is the Body of Christ. We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ . . . who is “the first-born” among many brethren” (Roman 8:17, 29)
  - Our names are enrolled in heaven – see Luke 10:20; Revelation 21:27.



- ④ “God, the Judge of All” – approaching God at mount Sinai was forbidden but when Christ died on the Cross “the veil was torn in two” (Matthew 27:51).
  - We are now commanded to approach the throne of grace and mercy. (Hebrews 4:16; 7:19; 10:19-22; Psalm 73:28; Romans 5:2)
- ⑤ “to the spirits of just men made perfect” – we come into the presence of all who have died in faith!
- ⑥ “Jesus” — the MAN, Jesus, the ONLY MEDIATOR between a holy, holy, holy God and sinners. (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24) NO ONE comes to the Father EXCEPT through the Mediator, the Man, Jesus. (John 14:6)
- ⑦ “the sprinkled blood” – the BLOOD by which we are forgiven! (Ephesians 1:7) – the BLOOD that makes those who were far off to be made near. By His BLOOD Christ made PEACE for us – PEACE between God and us! (Colossians 1:20-21)

## The Final Warning: Do Not Refuse God (Hebrews 12:25-29)

### • Five Warnings of Hebrews

- ① Danger of Drifting Away (2:1-4)
- ② Danger of Unbelief (Disobedience) (3:7-4:13)
- ③ Danger of Not Maturing (5:11-6:20)
- ④ Danger of Drawing Back (10:26-39)
- ⑤ Danger of Refusing (Rejecting) God (12:25-29)
- (v. 25) IF they did not escape who refused Him (GOD) who spoke on earth (at Mount Sinai), much more shall we not escape if we turn from Him (GOD-Christ the WORD - see Hebrews 2:1-3) who speaks (present tense) from heaven!
- NO MAN WHO REFUSES GOD WILL EVERY ENTER HEAVEN!
- At Sinai God shook the earth – but we are promised that God will soon shake not only the earth but the heavens as well!
  - The writer quotes the Prophet Haggai (2:6; see also Isaiah 13:13; Revelation 6:12-14; 2 Peter 3:10-12)
- (v. 27) The writer comments on Haggai 2:6 – everything physical will be destroyed – only what is eternal will remain!
- (v. 28) The only proper response to this grace is a life of service with reverence and godly fear.
- (v. 29) The FINAL WARNING – our God is a consuming fire!
  - To refuse the Word and GRACE of God brings DAMNATION!
  - To refuse the Word and GRACE of God after hearing the Word of God’s grace brings GREATER DAMNATION

