

Jesus is Greater: A study of Hebrews

Week Nineteen

A Tale of Two Mountains

Hebrews 12:18-29

Pastor Steve Treichler

May 16th, 2021 (8:30 and 10:30am), FB Live (10am)

For His Glory and our joy!

TEXT:

Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.”

²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our “God is a consuming fire.”

Message Notes:

Introduction – *Norm and Jamie Meyer Commissioning*

Review so far:

Jesus is all that!!

Jesus > OT Prophets

Jesus > Angels

Jesus' Gospel > Old Testament Law

Jesus = 100% Human

Jesus = 100% God

Jesus > the situations OT prophets wrote about

Jesus > Moses

Jesus' Salvation > Moses' Exodus

Jesus' Rest > Moses' Promised Land

Jesus > all previous priests

Jesus > Religion & Religiosity

Jesus = Ransom, Future Hope & Rest

Today's Message:

A Tale of Two Mountains

Hebrews 12:18-29

Mountain #1

Hebrews 12:18-21

The story behind this account:

Exodus 19-32

The setting of Mount Sinai

Exodus 19:1-2

The Covenant explained

Up the Mountain #1 (1096 ft, 4 hours)

Exodus 19:3-6

The Leaders agree

Down the Mountain #1 / Up #2 (3288 ft, 12 hours)

Exodus 19:7-8

Moses, this is gonna be awesome!"

Down the Mountain #1 / Up #2 (3288 ft, 12 hours)
Exodus 19:9

I am Holy. Very Holy!

Down the Mountain #1 / Up #2 (3288 ft, 12 hours)
Exodus 19:10-13

“Prepare yourself”

Down the Mountain #2 / Up #2 (4384 ft, 16 hours)
Exodus 19:14-15

The Big Day arrives

Down the Mountain #2 / Up #2 (4384 ft, 16 hours)
Exodus 19:16-20

Go down again. I’m Holy!

Down the Mountain #2 / Up #3 (5480 ft, 20 hours)
Exodus 19:21-22

Are you kidding me?!?!

Down the Mountain #2 / Up #3 (5480 ft, 20 hours)
Exodus 19:23

Go down again. I’m Holy!

Down the Mountain #3 / Up #3 (6576 ft, 24 hours)
Exodus 19:24-25

The Giving of the Commandments

Down the Mountain #3 / Up #3 (5480 ft, 20 hours)
Exodus 20:1-3ff

The People’s response.

Down the Mountain #3 / Up #4 (7672 ft, 28 hours)
Exodus 20:18-21

The People’s agree to the Covenant.

Down the Mountain #4 / Up #4 (8768 ft, 32 hours)
Exodus 24:1-3

The Golden Calf fiasco

Down the Mountain #5 / Up #5 (10,960 ft, 40 hours)
Exodus 32:1, 7

Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

Hebrews 12:22-24

1. City of the Living God

Hebrews 12:22

2. Angels in joyful assembly

Hebrews 12:22

3. Church of the firstborn

Hebrews 12:23

4. To God

Hebrews 12:23

5. Those who are made perfect

Hebrews 12:23

6. To Jesus

Hebrews 12:24

7. To the sprinkled blood of Christ

Hebrews 12:24

So, which Mountain you gonna approach?

Hebrews 12:25-29

Gospel Application – *Have you accepted the sense of the Gospel? Do you reject the nonsense of rejecting the Gospel? Are you living with the complexity of what it means to be a follower of Jesus in your sensibility?*

Scripture Passages used:

Hebrews 11:1-2

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for...

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Exodus 19-20

¹On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.” Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

¹⁰And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes ¹¹and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹²Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. ¹³They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.’ Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.”

¹⁴After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵Then he said to the people, “Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations.”

¹⁶On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. ¹⁹As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

²⁰The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up ²¹and the LORD said to him, “Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. ²²Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them.”

²³Moses said to the LORD, “The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, ‘Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.’ ”

²⁴The LORD replied, “Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them.”

²⁵So Moses went down to the people and told them.

¹And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me...

¹⁸When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

²⁰Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

²¹The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

Exodus 24:1-3

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, ²but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him.”

³When Moses went and told the people all the LORD’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.”

Exodus 24:13-18

¹³Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.”

¹⁵When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 32:1, 7

¹When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt.

Quotes (used, referred to, or for further study):

A Contrast of the Old and New Covenants: Mount Sinai and Mount Zion	
The amazing contrast drawn between Sinai and Zion, as a way of comparing the two covenant realities, contains the following elements, which can be numbered in seven components on each side. Immediately obvious is the brevity of the first list compared to the fullness of language in the second.	
Sinai	Zion
a mountain that may not be touched	the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
blazing fire	myriads of angels in festal gathering
darkness	the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven
gloom	God, judge of all
whirlwind	the spirits of the righteous made perfect
blast of a trumpet	Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant
fearful sound of words	the sprinkled blood, better than that of Abel
(Moses: full of fear and trembling)	

1

In what is one of the most vivid passages of the entire New Testament, our author draws out the contrast between the old and new covenants. In so doing, he is able to highlight the incomparable superiority of the new to the old. Similar contrastive passages may be found from Paul's letters (e.g., 2 Cor 3:6–18; Gal 4:24–31), but none is as powerful as the present one. Most significant is the description of **Mount Zion** as the present reality to which Christians have come. This provides a glorious picture of **realized eschatology** as the present reality of the Christian. The purpose of the contrast is to indicate what the readers already enjoy, and what they necessarily return to if they abandon their Christian faith. The contrast is particularly telling. How could those who had come to Zion possibly want to go back to Sinai?²

We'll go to a series of Old Testament texts later in this book, but let's consider one now, because it brings together several strands we've been reflecting on in this chapter, taking us deep into the heart of God that takes concrete form in Jesus. In Hosea 11 we read: My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all. How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I

¹ Donald A. Hagner, *Encountering the Book of Hebrews: An Exposition*, ed. Walter A. Elwell, Encountering Biblical Studies (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 162.

² Donald A. Hagner, *Encountering the Book of Hebrews: An Exposition*, ed. Walter A. Elwell, Encountering Biblical Studies (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 161–162.

make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. (Hos. 11:7–9) Here we have all the elements raised so far in this chapter: God’s own people, amid their sinfulness, with reference to God’s heart, and explicit affirmation of God’s holiness. And what does the text conclude? The key observation is this: it is in consideration of his people’s sins that God’s heart goes out to them in compassion. God looks at his people in all their moral filth. They have proven their waywardness time and again—not occasionally, but they “are bent on turning away from me” (v. 7). This is settled recalcitrance. But here’s the thing: they’re his. So what happens inside of God? We must tread carefully here; God is God, and is not at the mercy of passing emotions in the way that we embodied creatures are, much less we sinful embodied creatures. But what does the text say? We are given a rare glimpse into the very center of who God is, and we see and feel the deeply affectional convulsing within the very being of God. His heart is inflamed with pity and compassion for his people. He simply cannot give them up. Nothing could cause him to abandon them. They are his. What father could bring himself to put up for adoption his beloved son, just because his son messed up big time? Let’s not dishonor God by so emphasizing his transcendence that we lose a sense of the emotional life of God of which our own emotions are an echo, even if a fallen and distorted echo.⁵ God is not a platonic ideal, immovably austere, beyond the reach of meaningful human engagement. God is free of all fallen emotion, but not all emotion (or feeling) whatsoever—where do our own emotions come from, we who are made in his image? The text says his “compassion grows warm and tender” in light of his people’s sins. Who could have imagined this is who God most deeply is? The text connects God’s supreme holiness with his refusal to come in wrath. Who could have thought this up? We read: I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. Is that what you expect God to say? Don’t you actually, deep down, expect him to say the following, with one small word change? I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will therefore come in wrath. The Bible says that when God looks at his people’s sinfulness, his transcendent holiness—his God-ness, his very divinity, that about God which makes him not us—is what makes him unable to come down on his people in wrath. We tend to think that because he is God and not us, the fact that he is holy renders it all the more certain that he will visit wrath on his sinful people. Once more, we are corrected; we are brought out from under our natural ways of creating God in our own image, and we allow God himself to tell us who he is.

Ortlund, Dane C.. *Gentle and Lowly* (pp. 64-66). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

Seventh, and climactically, they have come to “the sprinkled blood,” the atoning blood of Jesus (v. 24; cf. 10:22; 1 Pt 1:2). Again, we come to the heart of Hebrews: the death of Jesus as the fulfillment of the sacrificial ritual of the old covenant that was its foreshadowing and preparation. The new covenant depends totally upon the death of Jesus, the shedding of his blood on the cross. The notion of “sprinkling” is used deliberately to draw out the parallel to the work of the Levitical priesthood (cf. 9:13–14, 19, 21). Our author adds that this blood “speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” Apparently, in view here is that whereas the blood of Abel speaks out of the ground for revenge (Gn 4:10; cf. “the blood of the righteous

Abel" [Mt 23:35]), the blood of Christ speaks for forgiveness. This is in full accord with the promise of Jeremiah that in the new covenant God promises, "I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more" (Jer 31:34, quoted in 8:12; 10:17). The blood of Jesus, and it alone, has brought us to the glorious fulfillment of Zion and to the wonderful catalog of blessings associated with it.³

³ Donald A. Hagner, [*Encountering the Book of Hebrews: An Exposition*](#), ed. Walter A. Elwell, *Encountering Biblical Studies* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 164–165.

A black and white photograph of a mountain range viewed through a cave opening. The text "JESUS IS GREATER" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, white, serif font, is the text "BOOK OF HEBREWS". The scene is framed by the dark, jagged rock of the cave entrance, leading to a vast, rugged mountain landscape under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with rocks and debris, suggesting a path or a natural opening in the mountain.

JESUS IS GREATER

BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS

GREATER THAN



Jesus > OT Prophets

Jesus > Angels

Jesus' Gospel > Old Testament Law

Jesus = 100% Human & Jesus = 100% God

Jesus > the situations OT prophets wrote about

Jesus > Moses

Jesus' Salvation > Moses' Exodus

Jesus' Rest > Moses' Promised Land

Jesus > all previous priests

Jesus > Religion & Religiosity

Jesus = Ransom, Future Hope & Our Rest

Hebrews 11:1-2

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for...

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:18-29

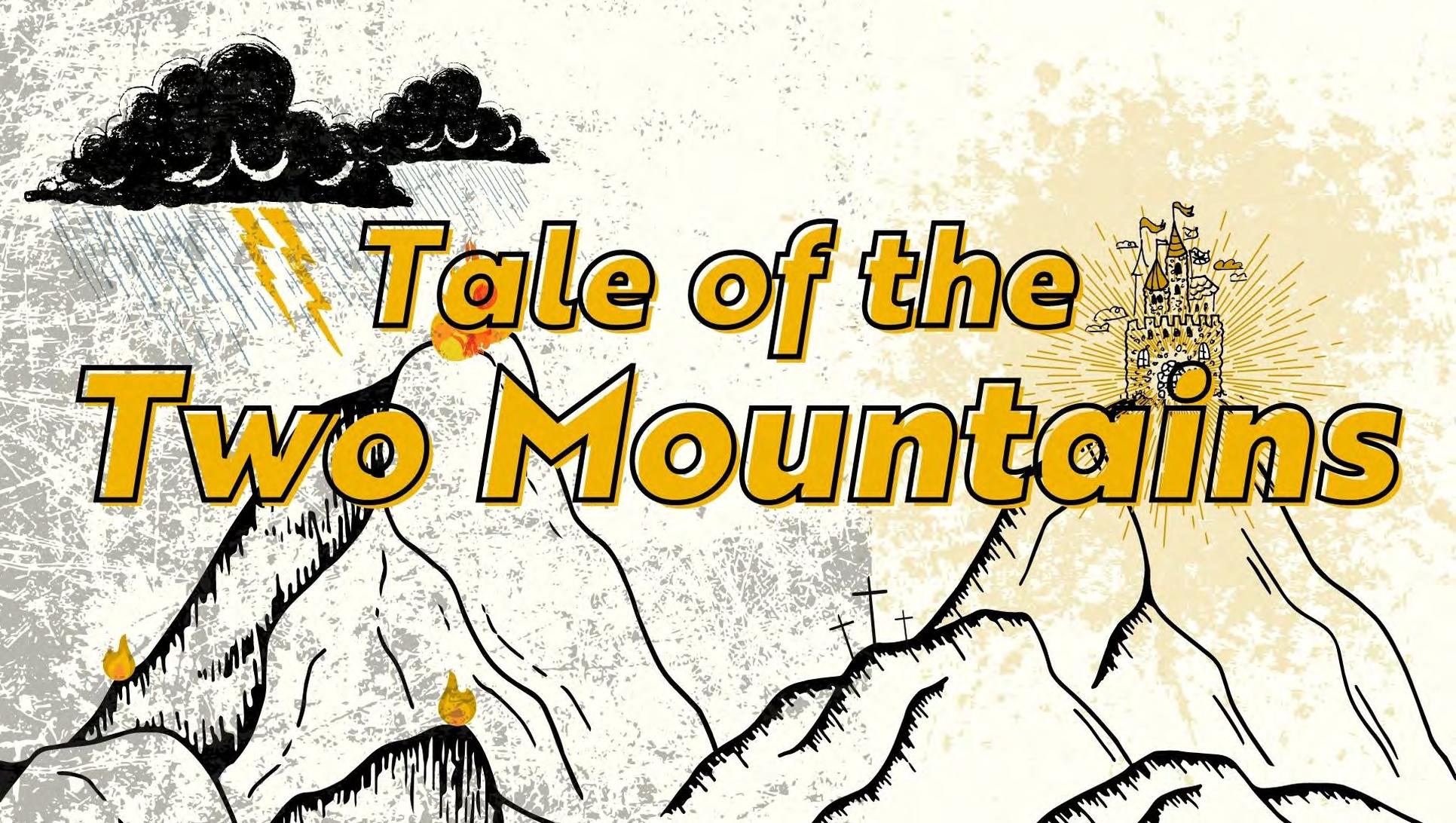
¹⁸You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” ²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

Hebrews 12:18-29

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Hebrews 12:18-29

²⁵See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our “God is a consuming fire.”



Tale of the Two Mountains

A Contrast of the Old and New Covenants: Mount Sinai and Mount Zion

The amazing contrast drawn between Sinai and Zion, as a way of comparing the two covenant realities, contains the following elements, which can be numbered in seven components on each side. Immediately obvious is the brevity of the first list compared to the fullness of language in the second.

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darkness	the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven
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whirlwind	the spirits of the righteous made perfect
blast of a trumpet	Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant
fearful sound of words	the sprinkled blood, better than that of Abel
(Moses: full of fear and trembling)	



Mountain #1 – Mt. Sinai

Hebrews 12:18-21

¹⁸You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” ²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”



Mount Sinai in present day Egypt

<u>Elevation</u>	2,285 m (7,497 ft)
<u>Prominence</u>	334 m (1,096 ft)

The setting of Mount Sinai

Exodus 19:1-2

¹On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt— on that very day— they came to the Desert of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

The Covenant explained

Up the Mountain #1 (1096 ft, 4 hours)

Exodus 19:3-6

³Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

The Leaders agree

Down the Mountain #1 / Up #2 (3288 ft, 12 hours)

Exodus 19:7-8

⁷So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

“Moses, this is gonna be awesome!”

Down the Mountain #1 / Up #2 (3288 ft, 12 hours)

Exodus 19:9

⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.” Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

I am Holy. Very Holy!

Down the Mountain #1 / Up #2 (3288 ft, 12 hours)

Exodus 19:10-13

¹⁰And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes ¹¹and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹²Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. ¹³They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.’ Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.”

“Prepare yourself”

Down the Mountain #2 / Up #2 (4384 ft, 16 hours)

Exodus 19:14-15

¹⁴After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵Then he said to the people, “Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations.”

The Big Day arrives

Down the Mountain #2 / Up #2 (4384 ft, 16 hours)

Exodus 19:16-20

¹⁶On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. ¹⁹As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. ²⁰The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain.

Go down again. I'm Holy!

Down the Mountain #2 / Up #3 (5480 ft, 20 hours)

Exodus 19:21-22

So Moses went up ²¹and the LORD said to him, “Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. ²²Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them.”

Are you kidding me?!?!

Down the Mountain #2 / Up #3 (5480 ft, 20 hours)

Exodus 19:23

²³Moses said to the LORD, “The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, ‘Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.’ ”

Go down again. I'm Holy!

Down the Mountain #3 / Up #3 (6576 ft, 24 hours)

Exodus 19:24-25

²⁴The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them."

²⁵So Moses went down to the people and told them.

The Giving of the Commandments

Down the Mountain #3 / Up #3 (5480 ft, 20 hours)

Exodus 20:1-3ff

¹And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me...

The People's response.

Down the Mountain #3 / Up #4 (7672 ft, 28 hours)

Exodus 20:18-21

¹⁸When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear.

They stayed at a distance ¹⁹and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." ²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

²¹The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

The People's agree to the Covenant.

Down the Mountain #4 / Up #4 (8768 ft, 32 hours)

Exodus 24:1-3

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, ²but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

³When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do."

The People's agree to the Covenant.

Down the Mountain #4 / Up #5 (9864 ft, 36 hours)

Exodus 24:13-18

¹³Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them."

The Golden Calf fiasco

Down the Mountain #5 / Up #5 (10,960 ft, 40 hours)

Exodus 32:1, 7

¹When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt.



Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

Hebrews 12:22-24

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

1. City of the Living God

Hebrews 12:22

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

2. Angels in joyful assembly

Hebrews 12:22

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

3. Church of the firstborn

Hebrews 12:23

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

4. To God

Hebrews 12:23

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

5. Those who are made perfect

Hebrews 12:23

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, **to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,** ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

6. To Jesus

Hebrews 12:24

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

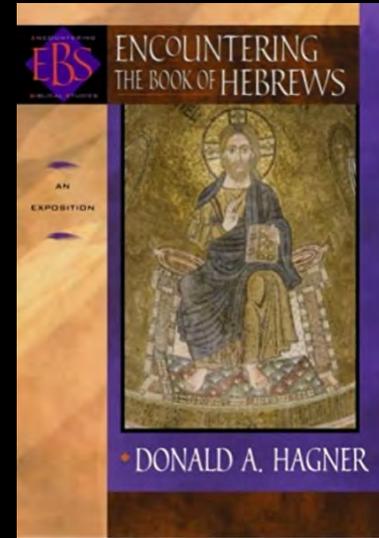
Mountain #2 – Mount Zion

7. To the sprinkled blood of Christ

Hebrews 12:24

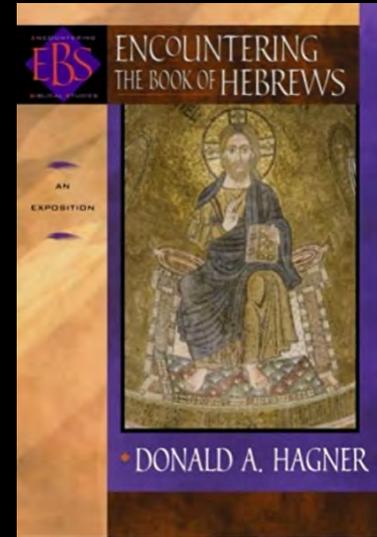
²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

66
Seventh, and climactically, they have come to “the sprinkled blood,” the atoning blood of Jesus (v. 24; cf. 10:22; 1 Pt 1:2). Again, we come to the heart of Hebrews: the death of Jesus as the fulfillment of the sacrificial ritual of the old covenant that was its foreshadowing and preparation. The new covenant depends totally upon the death of Jesus, the shedding of his blood on the cross. The notion of “sprinkling” is used deliberately to draw out the parallel to the work of the Levitical priesthood (cf. 9:13–14, 19, 21). Our author adds that this blood “speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” Apparently, in view here is that whereas the blood of Abel speaks out of the ground for revenge



“ (Gn 4:10; cf. “the blood of the righteous Abel” [Mt 23:35]), the blood of Christ speaks for forgiveness. This is in full accord with the promise of Jeremiah that in the new covenant God promises, “I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more” (Jer 31:34, quoted in 8:12; 10:17). The blood of Jesus, and it alone, has brought us to the glorious fulfillment of Zion and to the wonderful catalog of blessings associated with it.

~ Donald A. Hagner, *Encountering the Book of Hebrews: An Exposition*, ed. Walter A. Elwell, Encountering Biblical Studies (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 164-165.



Climbing Elevation?

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Mt. Sinai

10,960 ft

40 hours

Climbing Elevation?

Mt. Sinai

10,960 ft

40 hours

Mt. Zion

0 ft

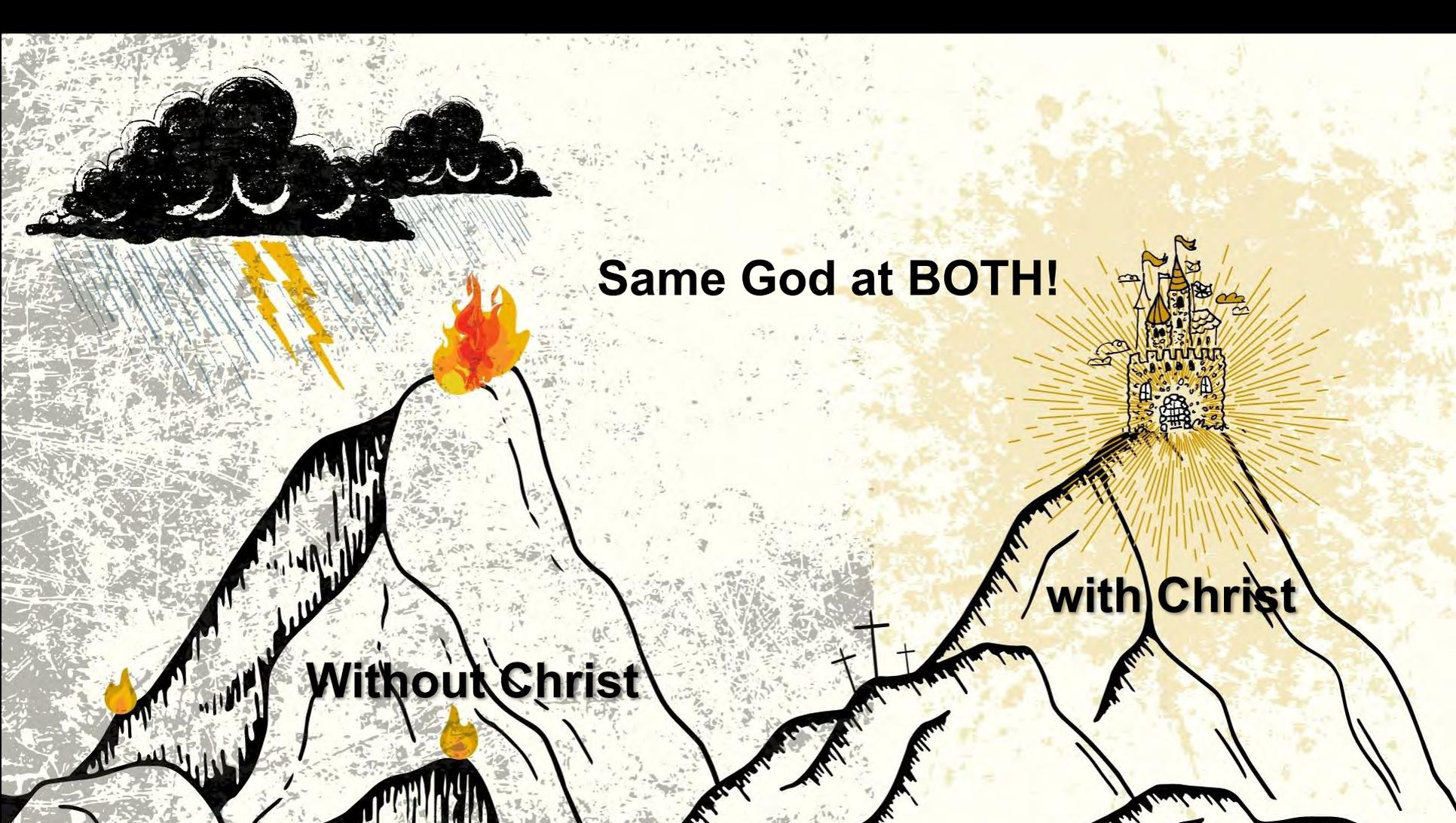
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Which Mountain are you gonna approach?

Hebrews 12:25-29

²⁵See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our “God is a consuming fire.”





Same God at BOTH!

Without Christ

with Christ

Gospel Applications:

Gospel Applications:

Are you climbing the wrong mountain?

Gospel Applications:

Are you climbing the wrong mountain?

*Do you have an incredible sense of reverence, awe
and thankfulness for what Christ has done so we can
come to the REAL Mountain of God?*