

**Bible  
Lesson**

**“You Have Not Come To Sinai”  
Hebrews 12:18-29**

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**BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION**

- Author’s **basis** for doctrinal teaching: God’s word & historical fulfillment
- Author’s **technique**: Comparison & contrast
- Author’s **theme**: Christ is greater and better than all things in the past
- Author’s **argument**: to return to the Old Covenant is to fall under God’s wrath

**“For our God is a consuming fire.”**  
Hebrews 12:29  
(See also Acts 17:30-31)

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Read along with me:  
**Hebrews 12:18-24**

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**“**

**The contrast here is very striking:**  
terror and death were to the Israelites at Sinai,  
but a free approach and life  
are to those who come to Zion.  
There were on Sinai: angels,  
surrounded with fire, darkness, and tempest;  
but myriads of them—an innumerable host,  
are now ministering spirits to the inhabitants of Zion.”

...

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**D. Reminder to the Hebrews:  
Old Covenant superseded by the New**

1. The contrast: **Mt Sinai** vs. Mt Zion  
a. Quotes: Ex 19:12-13; reiterated: Deut 5

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<sup>23</sup> “So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders.  
<sup>24</sup> And you said: ‘Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. <sup>25</sup> Now therefore, why should we die? **For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die...**”

Deuteronomy 5:23-25

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26 “For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?  
 27 You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and **tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.**”  
 Deuteronomy 5:26-27

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**D. Reminder to the Hebrews:  
 Old Covenant superseded by the New**

1. The contrast: **Mt Sinai** vs. Mt Zion

a. Quotes: Ex 19:12-13; reiterated: Deut 5

b. Physical place w/historical ramifications

- Mt Sinai: How different & dim when compared to Mt Zion
- A **dark, heavy, fearful, dangerous, and limited** administration under Moses' mediatorship at Sinai

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**D. Reminder to the Hebrews:  
 Old Covenant superseded by the New**

1. The contrast: **Mt Sinai** vs. Mt Zion

a. Quotes: Ex 19:12-13; reiterated: Deut 5

b. Physical place w/historical ramifications

c. Origin of Old (Mosaic) Covenant

d. All Israel trembled under God's voice as He spoke His Law to them on the mount

e. God's holy standard for all is: perfection

f. OT/NT saints saved in same way (11:7)  
 Looking for and upon the promised Messiah  
 “Saved by grace through faith” – from the Fall to present day

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SINAI - MOSES	ZION - CHRIST
Physical/senses	Spiritual/faith
Don't touch/stay back	Gathered on/united
Terrifying majesty	Joyful assembly
Heavy commands	Easy yoke
Duty/obligation	Love/willingness
Works-based/death	Grace-based/life
Judgment/justice	Mercy/forgiveness

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**D. Reminder to the Hebrews:  
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2. The contrast: Mt Sinai vs. **Mt Zion**

a. Spiritual place w/historical ramifications

- Zion: heavenly reality, future glory on earth
- The prophets spoke of the literal Zion (corrupted by sin) being restored and perfected by God (e.g. Isa 24-28; 35; 40 etc.)
- Home of “The city of the living God” (Heb 12:22)
- aka “The heavenly Jerusalem” (also 12:22; Cf. 11:16)
- Only “righteousness” dwells forever (2Pet 3:13)
- No “sin” or “curse” ever seen again (Rev 21:7; 22:3)
- Christ is now building that glorious city (Jn 14:1-6)
- It shall be fully realized on a “new earth” (Rev 21:9-14)

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**D. Reminder to the Hebrews:  
 Old Covenant superseded by the New**

2. The contrast: Mt Sinai vs. **Mt Zion**

a. Spiritual place w/historical ramifications

b. New Covenant origin in heaven (Jer 31:31ff)

c. All believers under Christ's prophetic voice as Lawgiver (Heb 12:25; Cf. Dt 18:18-19)

d. Only God's holy ones on Mt Zion

- angels & departed saints at joyful, festive convocation
- “*ekklesia*”: a called assembly incl. OT & NT believers
- “*of*” = belonging to; “*firstborn*” (protokos) = Jesus
- OT/NT believers registered as citizens in heaven
- Col 3:20 (heavenly citizenship); Heb 11:16 (God's city)

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- c. All believers under Christ's prophetic voice as Lawgiver
- d. Only God's holy ones on Mt Zion
- e. Intermediate state: character perfected
  - spirits have been justified (declared righteous) in Christ—and are made perfect in Christ; See 11:40

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- c. All believers under Christ's prophetic voice as Lawgiver
- d. Only God's holy ones on Mt Zion
- e. Intermediate state: character perfected
- f. Just (under law), Merciful (under grace)
- g. Jesus: Mediator of the New Covenant

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**Let us close our lesson with prayer**

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