



HEBREWS RECAP

- Major theme in Hebrews – don't quit; keep following Jesus even in face of persecution and difficulty
- Common tool to encourage faithfulness – warnings; there are significant consequences to be faced for abandoning Jesus
- Last week–
 - don't be like Esau who for a single meal sold his inheritance as the oldest son
 - don't sell your inheritance as a son/daughter of God in order to stay out of prison, or keep your house, or avoid public insult/persecution





HEBREWS 12:18-29

Mt Sinai – Law/Old Covenant

Message: Stay Back

- Mountain that can be touched and is burning with fire
- Darkness, gloom, and storm
- A trumpet blast – signals God descending on Mt Sinai
- Voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them because they couldn't bear what was commanded: 'if any an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.' – even an animal touching the mountain would become too holy for people to touch
- Sight was so terrifying even Moses said, 'I am trembling with fear' – and he was invited by God up the mountain





HEBREWS 12:18-29

Mt Zion

(Heavenly Jerusalem, City of the Living God) – Gospel/New Covenant

Message: Draw Near

- Thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly – heavenly dwelling
- To the church of the firstborn, whose names are written (enrolled) in heaven – Jesus is Firstborn and all who place their faith in Him are brought into His family
- To God, the Judge of all – we need to take our perseverance/lack of seriously, God will determine if we were faithful or not





HEBREWS 12:18-29

Mt Zion (Heavenly Jerusalem, City of the Living God) – Gospel/New Covenant

Message: Draw Near

- To the spirits of the righteous made perfect - OT saints whose faith was brought to its intended conclusion at the Cross, they have been forgiven/cleansed at heart level so they can live forever in God's presence
- To Jesus the mediator of a new covenant – one who stands between God/humanity and (1) deals with our issue (unholiness) and (2) establishes a new framework for being God's people based on faith in Him
- To the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel – Abel's blood 'cried' out to Lord from ground after being murdered by his brother Cain, asking for justice/vengeance whereas Jesus's blood speaks to forgiveness



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HEBREWS 12:18-29

Two Instructions:

- See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks-
 - Two warnings:
 - Consequences of ignoring God
 - If they did not escape God's judgment when they refused to heed Moses' warning, how much less will we escape God's judgment if we refuse to heed Jesus' warning to us?
 - All that is created will be shaken
 - He has already shaken the earth once (at giving of Law Mt Sinai shook), He will do so a 2nd time and shake heaven as well – everything that can be shaken will be shaken





HEBREWS 12:18-29

Two Instructions:

- **Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe**
 - **Acceptably** – in an acceptable/pleasing manner
 - **Reverence and awe** – with profound respect and holy fear
 - Two reasons:
 - We have been given an unshakeable Kingdom – there is a refuge for us
 - Our God is a consuming fire – His holiness will burn up all that is unholy





PSALM 46:1

Where do you run for shelter?

- **Ps 46.1** – God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.
- Refuge – place of shelter, One in whom we place our confidence





HEBREWS 12:18-29

Are you hardening your heart/refusing to listen to God's voice?

- Ideally – we trust that whatever God asks us to do is the best path forward
- Only way to get there – to obey when we *aren't* sure what God asks us to do is the best path forward



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HEBREWS 12:18-29

Do you worship God acceptably with reverence and awe?

- Ask Him to:
 - Show you His holiness
 - To make You holy like He is (not like you think you should be) – Jesus is our model



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