

Lesson 29 - Hebrews 12:18-24**Main Idea**

Those who endure in the faith come to Zion, the mountain of God's new and better covenant mediated through Jesus Christ. His blood satisfies God's wrath and permits God's people to enter God's presence freely and confidently.

Study Questions

1. How does this passage relate to 12:12-17?
2. The author uses Israel's experience at Mount Sinai (12:18-21) as an example of the fear that loomed over God's people under the Mosaic covenant (Ex.19:12-25; 20:18-21; Deut. 18:16). In Deuteronomy 9:19, which is quoted in this passage, Moses expresses fear that God would destroy Israel in their idolatry. In what ways is the threat of idolatry still as dangerous today, even for the church?
3. Why do you think the author compares Mount Sinai and Mount Zion?
4. In your own words, explain why the use of the word *not* in verse 18 is so critical to understanding this passage and our relationship to God in the new covenant?
5. Why is Sinai no longer the mountain on which Christians define their experience with God? On what basis do Christians come to Zion?
6. How should Christians think of the old covenant in light of Christ's fulfillment of it? Contrast what the author says about the old covenant (see 12:18-21) and the new (see 12:22-24). What are the primary differences?

7. What is the significance if connecting Zion to the future new Jerusalem? How does the authors usage of “city” play into this significance? What does it tell us about God’s kingdom?

8. Why is Jesus’ blood superior to the blood sacrifice offered by Abel? Why does the author compare the two?

9. How does the glorious picture of Zion in this passage help you endure in the faith? Why do you think the writer chose to use this picture to motivate his readers to endure until the end?

Whole-Bible Connections¹

Sinai to New Zion. The terrors of Mount Sinai, where the Israelites received the Ten Commandments from God, were real and palpable (Ex. 20:18-21; Heb. 12:18-21). The Lord’s awesome presence brought with it fire and cloud, thunder and lightening (Ex. 19:16-19; see Deut. 9:19). God descended on Sinai to declare his holy law, and Moses feared that God would destroy his people for their unholy worship of idols—a problem by which God’s sinful people would be perpetually ensnared. However, Christ came to live the perfect, sinless life God’s people could not live, and offered himself to be destroyed for their sin. Through Christ, God’s people are granted access to the new heavenly Zion, to worship God in reverence and awe without the fear of being destroyed (Heb. 12:22-28).

Personal Reflection

- What specific truth do you find encouraging from this study?

- How might you put this truth into action this week?

- Take time to pray for the Spirit to encourage you as you endure by faith.

¹ Capps, pg. 79