



The Good News

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Living on Mount Zion

By Michael McCleary

In **Exodus 19** and **20** we read that Mt. Sinai trembled at the voice of God; there was lightning and thunder, and the entire mountain was filled with smoke. It must have been a truly incredible and terrifying experience for everyone involved. We read that the people trembled and were afraid, and **Heb. 12:18-21** tells us that even Moses was fearful. In these experiences we can glimpse just how powerful our God is and why we should always seek to serve Him. Further in **Hebrews 12**, we find that the Hebrew writer cites the events on Mt. Sinai for a specific reason. Let us look further into this:

Heb. 12:18-24 – Our “better” mountain: As we read **Heb. 12:18-24**, what stands out to us is that the Hebrew writer contrasts the “mountain” that we have *not* come to versus the “mountain” to which we *have* come. The writer is making the point that we have not come to that same mountain in the wilderness that cannot be touched and that should inspire fear. Rather, we have come to Mount Zion, (not a physical mountain but a spiritual one), with a heavenly Jerusalem as its city. In addition, we have a perfect Mediator over this new covenant, Jesus Christ our High Priest.

Heb. 12:14-17 – More, therefore, is expected and demanded of us: Why does the Hebrew writer describe this contrast between mountains? He does it to inspire the Jewish brethren to remain steadfast in Christ and not go back to the Old Law. He encourages them to pursue peace and holiness in order to “see the

Lord”. He tells them to look carefully so that they may understand what the grace of God demands.

Heb. 12:25-27 – Higher expectations bring a stricter judgment: The Hebrew writer makes it abundantly clear that we must not refuse Him who speaks to us concerning His word and what He expects from us. We find that judgment is coming in the form of God “shaking” all things that are not eternal, so that which is not shaken will be saved.

This spiritual mountain that Christ has established (See **Dan. 2:35,45**) is the new covenant that promises better things than the old one, including salvation from sins and an eternal home in Heaven with God. However, it is not simply given to us without conditions; we must live in peace and holiness, seeking always to be pleasing to God, understanding that one day judgment will come. Will we be ready?