



The Good News

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Why should a mountain change the way I live?

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When we study in Exodus concerning the giving of the Ten Commandments, we find in **Exodus 19** and **20** not only the law that God gave to Moses, but also what was taking place at the time. We find that Mt. Sinai trembled at the voice of God, there was lightning and thundering, and the entire mountain was filled with smoke. It must have been a truly incredible and terrifying experience for everyone involved. We read in these texts that the people trembled and were afraid. If we read **Heb. 12:18-21** we find 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. If we were to read a little more of **Hebrews 12**, we would find that the Hebrew writer cites the events on Mt. Sinai for a very 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 the fact that the Hebrew writer uses a compare/contrast illustration with regard to the “mountain” that we have *not* come to and the “mountain” to which we *have* come. We find that the Hebrew writer is making a 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 the physical mountain but the spiritual one, with a heavenly Jerusalem as its city. In addition, the writer provides five other elements that are a part of this mountain and this city to which we have come and a portion of which we take part as Christians.

Heb. 12:14-17 – More, therefore, is expected and demanded of us: Why does the Hebrew writer bear out this comparison between mountains? He does this to inspire the readers to live a better and more pleasing life. 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. We learn that by sinning, we commit spiritual fornication, as Esau did in a way, and that once our opportunity has passed, there is nothing we can do to regain it.

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.

As we consider the point for us today, why should a mountain change the way I live? 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. Which side of Judgment will we be on?