

Responding To the Voice of God

Hebrews 12:18-29



Israel's Encounter with God at Mount Sinai (18-21)

- Background: why come to Mount Sinai? (Exodus 19)
- Characteristics of the theophany at Mount Sinai
 - Mount Sinai is a physical place that can be touched
 - God displayed Himself in blazing fire, which speaks of His judgment
 - The mount was shrouded in darkness and gloom; God was not visible
 - Not only thunder and lightning, but a strong wind
 - The air was pierced with the sound of a trumpet
 - The mount was resonating with the actual voice of God presenting the demands of His Law
 - Sinai was a place of unapproachable holiness
 - It was a place of great fear; even Moses was in fear

Israel's Encounter with God at Mount Sinai (18-21)

Summarizing what Mount Sinai represents...

1. God used a powerful combination of sight, sound and feeling to put His unapproachable holiness on display.
2. This was a scene of fear and terror.
3. Since the purpose of this event was to establish God's covenant of Law with the people of Israel, the only appropriate response was to fear God and to obey Him.

Israel's Encounter with God at Mount Sinai (18-21)

Summarizing what Mount Sinai represents...

1. God used a powerful combination of sight, sound and feeling to
p *For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a*
2. T *curse; as it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not*
3. S *abide by all things written in the Book of Law, to perform* nt of
L *them."* Galatians 3:10 was
to fear God and to obey Him.

Believers' Encounter with God at Mount Zion (22-24)

- Characteristics of Mount Zion
 - It is welcoming, though it is the dwelling place of God
 - They have come to a place full of angels in celebration
 - All people in Christ from all time and for all time are enrolled there
 - They have come into the very presence of God, the righteous Judge
 - The souls of those who have genuine saving faith who have died are there
 - There, they have come to Jesus, mediator of the New Covenant
 - They have come to the sprinkled blood, which speaks the message of salvation

Comparing the Two Mountains

Mount Sinai	Mount Zion
A physical place	A spiritual place
A place of fear and terror	A place of joyful celebration
A place centered on the Law, which cannot save, but only condemns	A place where God's grace has been freely given, believers have been enrolled as heirs with Christ and have been made perfect
A place where God is unapproachable in His holiness	A place where the residents are welcomed into the very presence of God with no fear of judgment
A place that points sinners to the need for a savior	A place where Jesus is, the One whose sprinkled blood cleanses sinners (Hebrews 10:22) making possible their entrance into the Heavenly Jerusalem

Implications of the Contrast (25-29)

- Heed what God is saying (25a)
“The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:15
- There will be no escape: an argument from the lesser to the greater (25b)
- The judgment to come (26-29)

Implications / Application

- ❖ Those who are not in Christ must repent and put their faith in Him before it is too late
- ❖ For believers, we are to live lives of gratitude for what Christ has done for us, offering our service to Him daily in an attitude of worship, with reverence and awe