

GOD'S TWO MOUNTAINS

Hebrews 12:18-29

Introduction: Most of us, as we get older especially, wish we could turn the clock back and return to some point in our past life. God sends a warning to His people to stop wanting to return to their old ways of the law and many sacrifices and rituals. At Mt. Sinai they were in the desert and living was very hard. Things were only temporary and there was always causes to fear. However at Mt. Zion the place called Heaven, there is abundant grace, life is eternal, love is perfect and all things are glorious and God intended for Mt. Zion to replace Mt. Sinai, although it had it's time and place of importance. Today Christians are often tempted to want to "go back" instead of moving onward in their Christian lives. By comparing the events at God's two mountains, it will become very clear that God's Mt. Zion is the one for today.

I. THERE WAS CONDEMNATION AT MT. SINAI (vv 18-21)

1. The first thing seen at Mt. Sinai is condemnation and separation.
 - The people nor their animals were to touch the mountain with the penalty of death.
 - There was a consuming fire which kept people at a distance.
 - There was darkness upon the mountain, thus separating the people from the mountain.
 - There was shaking of the mountain ground, thus preventing approach.
 - There was a loud, blaring trumpet sound warning the people to keep their distance.
 - There was God's voice declaring His warnings and commands.
2. There were only the chosen allowed upon Mt. Sinai.
 - God chose who He wanted to give His laws to from the mountain.
 - The laws given from Mt. Sinai were unable to be kept by most of God's people.
 - The laws given showed the people that they needed divine help in keeping them.
 - The laws given never took away the people's sins.
 - The laws reveal that all people have sinned and come short of God's expectations and everyone sooner or later rebels against God.

II. THERE IS CONSECRATION AT MT. ZION (vv22-25)

1. Christians are not tied to Mt. Sinai for they have another mountain of God. Mt. Zion.
 - It is a heavenly city (New Jerusalem), made by the "hands" of God, Himself.
 - There is an innumerable heavenly host keeping watch over Mt. Zion.
 - There will be an innumerable population of believers, the chosen, the called, whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Those who have believed in Jesus Christ.
2. God will judge all those who refused to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus Christ is mediating before God on behalf of all believers and will ultimately bring all believers into the Heavenly City of Mt. Zion.

4. At Mt. Sinai, it was the blood of animals that hid the sins of the people, but at Mt. Zion, it is the blood of God's Son, Jesus Christ, that cleanses and removes the sins of those who believe in Jesus Christ.

III. AT MT. ZION THERE IS ACCEPTION AND CONFIRMATION (vv26-29)

1. God will replace all that is know in the past and of today with a new heaven and a new earth.
 - Everything temporary will be replaced with permanancy. The beleiver's bodies will be eternal, the heavenly city will be eternal, the new heavens will be eternal, all pertaining to Mt. Zion will everlasting.
2. Things of the insecure world situation, such as insecurity, untrustworthy, failing, nowhere to go, nobody to turn to will be replaced.
 - God's salvation secures all those who have come to Jesus Christ.
 - Those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
 - Once a beleiver's name is written down, it will be there forever.
 - God's Word brought the world and universe into existence and God's Word will shake and bring to an end all that He has made.
 - God's Word brings assurance for it is truth and fact.
 - God's kingdom is coming and it is called the "day of the Lord." There sill come a time a trumpet will sound and a shout be given and the heavens split apart and history as mankind has known it will come to an end. Thus saith the Lord....

CONCLUSION:

1. God's first mountain, Mt. Sinai was one of separation of God from His people with laws that could not be kept given. Thus a form of "condemnation." Sins would only be covered up by particular sacrifices.
2. God's other mountain, Mt. Zion is one of permanent union of God with His Children, those who have believed in His Son, Jesus Christ, a holy city, made by the hands of God, Himself, where His presence rules out the need of any sun and there God will dwell with His Children for all eternity.
3. Therefore Christian, be confident, be strong, rest in your relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Look forward to the time when the shout is given, the trump is sounded and the heavens open for the Lord Jesus Christ to descend.
4. Israel's mountain was Mt. Sinai. The Christian's mountain is Mt. Zion. What a difference.