

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

## Hebrews 12:18-29 – Jason Finke

In this week's passage, the author of Hebrews contrasts the old and new covenants (Mt. Sinai vs. Mt. Zion). The author reminds the reader of the Israelites' encounter with God at Mt. Sinai after their exodus from Egypt (Exodus 19). That encounter demonstrated to the Israelites God's holiness and awesomeness. They were so terrified, that they requested that Moses speak to them instead of God directly for fear that they would die (Exodus 20:18-19). Mt. Zion is described as the habitation of those who have been saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus. In contrast to the unapproachability to God at Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion is described as being invited into God's presence. The author also shows how Mt. Zion is the unshakeable kingdom in contrast to God's shaking of the earth at Mt. Sinai.

The main point of the sermon was to be thankful you have received the kingdom that cannot be shaken. Will organized the sermon around the following three points.

1. **Thy Kingdom Past**
2. **Thy Kingdom Present**
3. **Thy Kingdom Future**

### Discussion

1. In the sermon, Will noted that the author of Hebrews is referring back to Exodus 19 and Deuteronomy 9 in verses 18-21. **Read Exodus 19:9-17.** What does this passage say about God? What are some other passages that describe similar responses to encountering God? Why do we at times fail to have a proper reverence for God?
2. Will highlighted the fact that God's Kingdom isn't just a future expectation, but also the present reality for the believer. He also stated that we are admitted into God's Kingdom based on Christ's righteousness and not our own. How does Jesus's righteousness (and sacrificial death) change the believer's standing before God? What does this fact mean for how the believer approaches God?
3. In the sermon, Will also warned the listener that those who reject Jesus will not escape God's judgment. **Read 2 Peter 3:7 and Hebrews 10:26-31.** How do these passages describe God's coming judgment? How should the believer respond since he/she has been saved from this judgment?

4. Finally, Will offered 3 applications from this passage – **1. Be thankful 2. Serve God acceptably 3. Revere and live in awe of God the consuming fire.** What are some ways we can apply these principles to our lives?