

An Unshakable Kingdom: The Tale of Two Mountains **Hebrews 12:18-29**

Introduction:

In encouraging Christians to run the race that is set before them, the Hebrews writer has instructed them to...

- a. Lay aside things that would hinder them - He 12:1**
- b. Run with endurance - He 12:1**
- c. Keep their focus on Jesus - He 12:2-3**
- d. Remember the value of the Lord's chastening - He 12:4-11**
- e. Run with "style" - He 12:12-13**
- f. Pursue peace and holiness - He 12:14**
- g. Look diligently lest one fall short of God's grace, stumble because of bitterness, or become a fornicator or profane person - He 12:15-17**

Further encouragement is now provided in the last half of chapter twelve...

- h. With a reminder of the "mountain" to which they have come**
- i. With a warning to heed "Him who speaks"**

As we "run the race of faith" today, we need this same reminder and warning...

- j. Do we appreciate the significance of the "mountain" to which we have come?**
- k. Are we "**Heeding The Voice From The Mountain**"?**

The writer now turns our attention to the differences between the Old Covenant (the law), and the New Covenant (grace), by using the picture of two mountains.

1. Mount Sinai (The Old Covenant; The Law)

- The earthly nature of Mt. Sinai – a mountain “that might be touched.”**
- The awful display of Mt. Sinai – caused dread and fear in the Israelites (Exodus 19)**
- The distant relationship with God at Mt. Sinai – Moses said, “I exceedingly fear and shake.”**

2. Mount Zion (The New Covenant; Grace)

- **What We Have In Heaven**
 - **Our eternal home**
 - **The departed saints**
 - **Our Sovereign Judge**
- **What We Have On Earth**
 - **We are associated with the servants of God – The Angels (Hebrews 1:14)**
 - **We are associated with the sons of God – “the assembly of the firstborn; the redeemed)**
- **What We Have In Between The Two**
 - **The continuing work of Christ – “Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant”**
 - **The help of Angels – Hebrews 1:14 – “ministering spirits”**
 - **The “sprinkled blood” (AMP) – Contrast the sprinkling of Abel’s blood and Christ’s blood. (11:4)**

3. The Final Appeal; Warning (Hebrews 12:25-27)

- **There is danger being inattentive to God’s voice.**
- **There is danger in insulting God’s person.**
- **There is danger in ignoring God’s power.**

The Old Testament writer warns of what God demonstrated so fearfully then.

The New Testament writer now warns of what God so forcefully declares now.

Application:

- **We are to rejoice over a glorious fact – “we have received a Kingdom which cannot be shaken”**
- **We are to rejoice over God’s gracious favor towards us – “let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably.”**
- **We are to respect God with godly fear – “serve with reverence and godly fear; Our God is a consuming fire”**

“Grace gives us no license to forget God’s holiness. The distance has been removed but God’s burning holiness remains the same.” – John Philipps