

Better

A Study of the Book of Hebrews



Textual Commentary:

**When you face trials,
think of Christ. Be
reminded that God is
with you.**

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are **surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our **faith**, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ **Consider him** who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that** you may **not grow weary or fainthearted.**

Textual Commentary:

**You are a child of
God Most High!**

Hebrews 12:3-6

⁴ In your struggle against sin you have **not yet** resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines **the one he loves**,
and chastises every son **whom he receives.**”



Faith enables us to respond to God's discipline with hope rather than with either indifference or despair.

PASTOR CHUCK SWINDOLL

Textual Commentary:

**Discipline means the
Father loves you.**

**Endure it and bear
the fruit of
righteousness.**

Hebrews 12:7-13

⁷ **It is for discipline that you have to endure.** God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left **without discipline**, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us **and we respected them.** Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, **that we may share his holiness.** ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹² **Therefore** lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.



Textual Commentary:

**Esau was careless
about future
blessings in favor of
fleeting present
pleasure.**

Hebrews 12:14-17

¹⁴ Strive for **peace with everyone**, and for the **holiness** without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ **See to it** that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, **who sold his birthright for a single meal.** ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, **though he sought it with tears.**

Textual Commentary:

Go to THE LAW

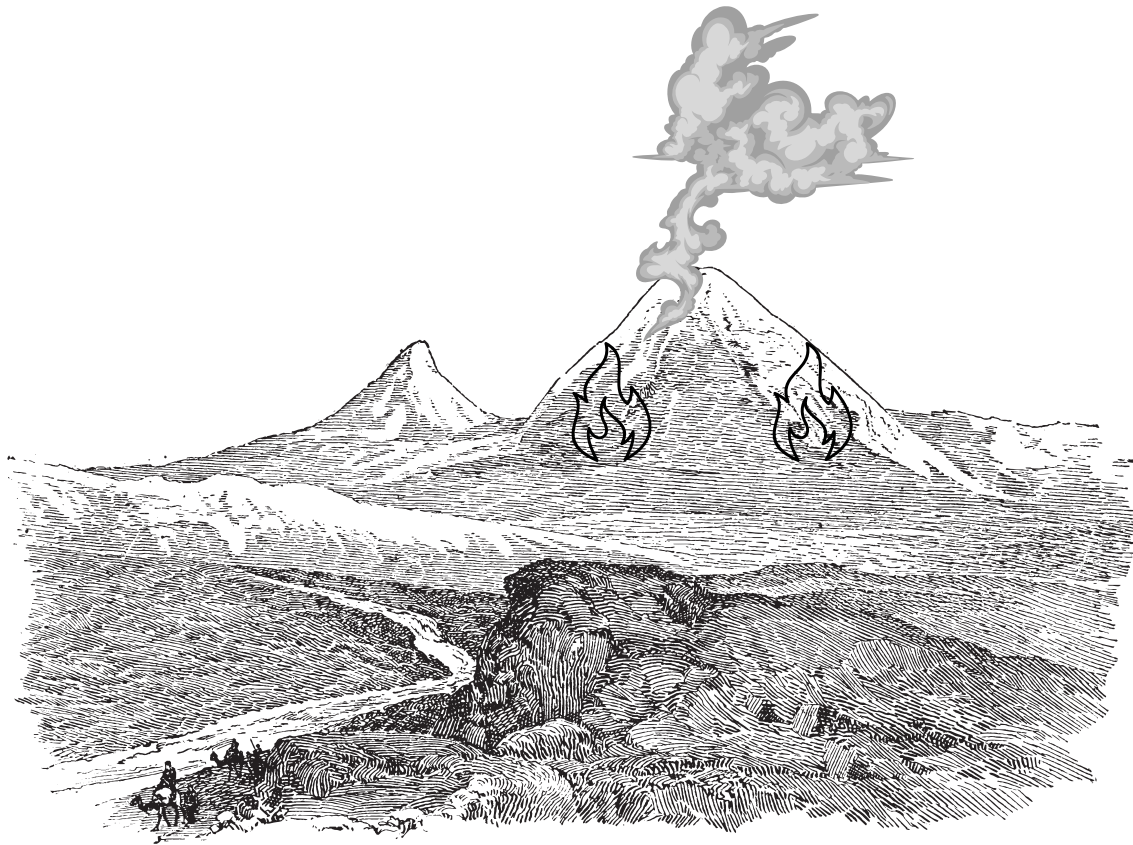
- OR -

Go to GRACE!

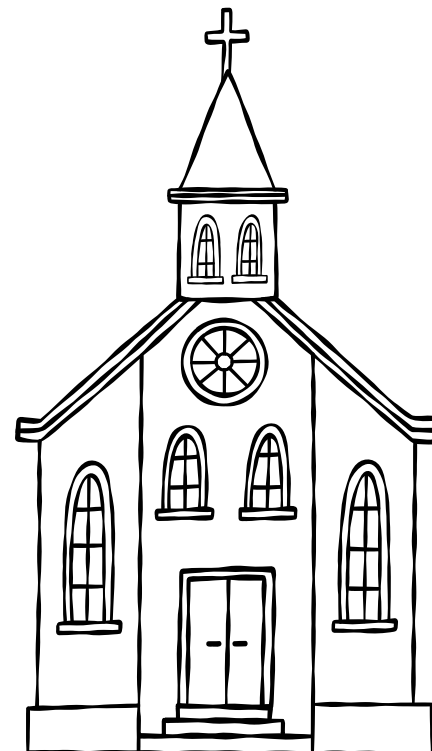
Hebrews 12:18-24

¹⁸ **For** you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "**I tremble with fear.**"

²² **But** you have come to **Mount Zion** and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.



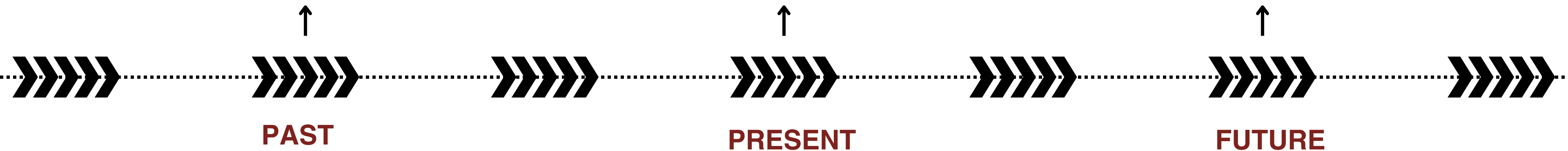
MT. SINAI
LAW & JUDGEMENT



THE CHURCH AGE



MT. ZION
GRACE, FAITH, HOPE, LOVE



Textual Commentary:

**God is inviting YOU
into a Kingdom that
will last forever.**

**Be grateful by
offering God your
worship.**

Hebrews 12:25-29

²⁵ **See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For** if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape **if we reject him** who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ **Therefore let us be grateful** for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus **let us offer to God acceptable worship,** with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

**LIVE
THE
TEXT**



- **Face** the Father's discipline with hope in his transformative power in your life (v.3-13).
 - *Do this by remembering Christ and his suffering and trust that if the Father would allow the Son to experience such trials, he will allow you to face trials.*
- **Work** for peace with everyone and **work** toward holiness (v.14).
- **Confront** any **root of bitterness** (v.15); **sexual immorality** (v.16a); or **obsessions with the present over the future** (Esau, v.16b).

LIVE THE TEXT