

# Hebrews 12:18-29

## “Jesus Offers a Better Kingdom”

### Pastor Bruce Zachary

#### Discussion Qs

1. What are some reasons why Jesus' kingdom is better?
2. Why is it good that the Old Testament (law) puts the fear of sin in man?
3. How does the New Testament (grace) produce reverence for God?
4. Why is God and eternity with Him the only reality that is permanent?

#### Intro. What are some reasons why Jesus' kingdom is better?

**Subject: Jesus offers a better Kingdom**

**Object: Worship and serve God through Christ**

**I. Two mountains compared and contrasted**

**A. Mount Sinai and the Old Covenant of the law [18-21]**

**1. God's holiness and wrath re sin revealed at Sinai**

**a. The giving of the law was to put the fear of sin in man [Ex. 19:10-25]**

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” <sup>21</sup> And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”

i. Mount Sinai was a blaze with veil of fog around it and a raging storm [18]

ii. Sounds of a trumpet (God summoning His people) and a thunderous voice that was so ominous that people begged for it to stop [19]

iii. Terror re command to execute any animal or person that touched the mountain [20]

iv. The giving of the law was so intense that even Moses was exceedingly afraid [21]

**2. The OT [law] produces the knowledge of God's glory and our sin**

**Why is it good that the Old Testament (law) puts the fear of sin in man?**

**3. Sinai reveals the separation between God and man to produce reverence**

**B. Mount Zion and the New Covenant of grace [22-24] the better mountain**

**1. God's love and grace re sin revealed at Zion [22-24]**

**a. The giving of Christ's sacrifice was to put the love of God in man**

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the

spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of Abel*.

**2. The NT [grace] produces the knowledge of God's love and our sin**

**How does the New Testament (grace) produce reverence for God?**

**3. Zion reveals the connection between God and man to produce reverence**

a. Heavenly focus, city of the living God [22]

b. An innumerable company [22] and general assembly (the Church) [23] draw near [Cf. at Sinai only Moses]

c. Full of people who are just and perfect because of Jesus [23]

[Cf. at Sinai full of guilt and fear]

d. Jesus is the Mediator of NT [24] [Cf. Moses was deliverer of OT]

e. Abel's sacrifice was pleasing to God, but Jesus' sacrifice was perfect [24]

**II. Two kingdoms compared and contrasted [25-29]**

**A. An earthly kingdom that can be shaken [25-27]**

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, <sup>26</sup> whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." <sup>27</sup> Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

**1. Those who rebel against the king on earth will be punished [25]**

**2. God's word shook the earth in giving the law [26]**

a. God promised to shake the earth and heaven after the again [Haggai 2:6]

**3. God will ultimately remove the earthly kingdom to reveal the heavenly kingdom [27]**

[2 Pet. 3:10-12, Rev. 21]

**B. A heavenly kingdom that cannot be shaken [28-29]** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. <sup>29</sup> For our God *is* a consuming fire.

**1. God and eternity with Him is the only reality that won't be shaken [28]**

**2. Being part of a kingdom that cannot be shaken inspires passionate worship [28]**

a. By God's grace through Christ we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

**3. God's holiness and righteousness inspires passionate worship [29]** For our God *is* a consuming fire.

**Conc. Worship and serve God through Christ**