

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Hebrews 12:18-24

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ **DAY 1**

Read Hebrews 12:18-24

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

- 18** For you have not come
 to *a mountain* that can be touched
 and to a blazing fire,
 and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind
19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words,
 which *sound was such that* those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.
20 For they could not bear the command,
 “If even a beast touches the mountain,
 it will be stoned.”
21 And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said,
 “I am full of fear and trembling.”
22 But you have come to Mount Zion
 and to the city of the living God,
 the heavenly Jerusalem,
 and to myriads of angels,
23 to the general assembly and church 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,
 which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.

1. Our passage this week begins with the word “For.” This indicates a connection back to the previous section of chapter 12. How does this week’s passage connect to verses 15-17?

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2. Does the author name what mountain this is? What mountain do you think the author is referring to?
3. There are seven items the author says they have not come to in verses 18-19. List them.
4. What is the author's point in saying that this mountain "can be touched?"
5. Read Exodus 19:10-13. What would happen to anyone who touched Mount Sinai?

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6. If the people have not gone physically to Mount Sinai, what does it mean that the people have not “*come*” to this mountain?
7. Read Exodus 19:18-19. How do these verses tie into Hebrews 12:18-19?
8. What major event happens at Sinai in Exodus 20? Why is that important for our understanding of Hebrews 12?

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9. Why does the author of Hebrews include this portrayal of Sinai here? How does this work into the author's overall argument?

❖ **DAY 2**

Read Hebrews 12:18-24 again.

10. Read Exodus 20:18-19. What signs accompanied the Lord's presence on Sinai?
11. Throughout the Bible, where do we find the sound of trumpets? What does that sound signify? (see Matt. 24:29-31, 1 Thess 4:16, Rev. 8:6)

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12. What did those who heard the “sound of words” do?

13. What do you think were the words mentioned in v. 19?

14. According to v. 20, why did they beg no further word be spoken?

15. What does it mean that the sight was “terrible” in v. 21?

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16. Read Deuteronomy 9:15-19. How does this OT passage explain why Moses was “terrified and trembling?”

❖ **DAY 3**

Read Hebrews 12:18-24 again.

17. With which mountain does the author contrast Mount Sinai in v. 22?

18. Read Revelation 21:22-27. What are the characteristics of the “heavenly Jerusalem?”

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19. How does the “general assembly and church of the firstborn” contrast with the earlier description of Sinai? *(Note: the Greek word for assembly literally means a ‘festival assembly’ intended as celebration.)*
20. What is the identity of those “enrolled in heaven?” (Hint: look at Luke 10:20 and back at Revelation 21.)
21. How does the mention of sprinkled blood connect back to what we’ve read in Hebrews previously? (Look at Hebrews 9:16-28)

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22. How would you summarize the contrast the author makes between Sinai and Zion in this passage?
What point is he making through this contrast?

This week, thank God that we are those enrolled in heaven, having come to God through His sprinkled blood. Praise God for His loving kindness towards us in Christ. Pray that we may not lose heart and go back to Sinai, with righteousness by the law, but cling to Christ, whose righteousness is imputed to us through His death and resurrection.