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Hebrews 12:18-24

¹⁸ For you have not come to something that can be touched, and to a blazing fire, and to darkness, and to gloom, and to whirlwind, ¹⁹ and to the blast of a trumpet, and to the voice of words, which 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."

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Hebrews 12:18-24

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

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New Covenant Realities

Do you know where you live? Do you know who you are? Do you know where you belong?

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New Covenant Realities

➤ Context:

- continue to endure in faith because you are not in a state of judgment but you are enjoying the riches of the New Covenant
- he contrasts the foreboding judgment of Mt. Sinai with the salvation-blessings of Mt. Zion

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New Covenant Realities

1. Not to Mt. Sinai – terrible exclusion

- a seven-fold description of Sinai as the dreadful place of judgment and exclusion from God's presence (a sensory experience!)
- the most terrifying thing at Sinai was the voice of God – no fellowship, only a threat of judgment

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New Covenant Realities

1. Not to Mt. Sinai – terrible exclusion

- the specific command quoted (Ex. 19:12-13; 23-25) emphasizes the people's inability to approach God; it would result in death
- Moses was afraid due to the wrath of God against Israel's sin (Deut. 9:19) – as mediator, he was ultimately inadequate

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New Covenant Realities

➤ Implications

- 1) those who turn away from Christ will experience the intensified form of God's judgment at Mt. Sinai (cf. Heb. 10:26-31)
- 2) by approaching God through Christ, we do not stand in the place of God's terrifying judgment

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New Covenant Realities

2. But to Mt. Zion – joyful inclusion

- a seven-fold description of Mount Zion as our joyful dwelling in the presence of God and in the company of the saints of all ages
- God, as Judge, is at the center – dwelling in His holy presence is only by the means He provides

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New Covenant Realities

2. But to Mt. Zion – joyful inclusion

- the sprinkled blood of Jesus, as mediator of the New Covenant, makes possible and certain all the realities just described
- Abel's blood cried out for God's judgment; Jesus' blood proclaims a better message of cleaning from sin and release from judgment

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New Covenant Realities

➤ Implication:

- as believers, entrance to Zion is our ever-present privilege and our final, ultimate destiny – do not turn back!

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