

Hebrews Part Two

Lesson #24, Chapter 12:22-29

To prepare for this week's lesson read Hebrews 10:32 to 12:29. There's too much here to proceed in your own strength. Be sure to stop and ask the Lord for His help as you study.

1. The author uses comparisons effectively *and* frequently in this book. Using the references below list what is being compared and which one is superior.
 - a. From 1:4-5:
 - b. From 1:1-2 and 2:1-3:
 - c. From 3:3-6:
 - d. From 4:8-9:
 - e. From 4:14-15:
 - f. From 6:13-18:
 - g. From 7:18-19:
 - h. From 7:23-24:
 - i. From 8:6-7:
 - j. From 9:11-12:
 - k. From 9:24:
 - l. From 10:4, 10-12:

m. From 10:28-29:

n. From 11:16, 39-40:

2. What point is the author making with his continued use of comparisons in the book of Hebrews?

3. We ended last week's lesson with an examination of the first mountain mentioned in this chapter. For review, list five observations about Mt. Sinai from verses 18-21.

4. Though the Israelites went to Mt. Sinai, what mountain have *we* come to (verse 22)?

5. Where does the mountain reside to which we have come?

6. What do these two mountains represent? See Gal. 4:21-31 and 2 Cor. 3:7-11.

7. What else exists with Mt. Zion according to verses 22-24?

8. The author sets up a comparison of superiority again—just as he has done many times in this book. What is the point of the mountain comparison from verses 18-24?

9. The author continues to make his point that Christ is superior in every way. In Hebrews 12:24 what two men are being compared? What did the first man in verse 24 do that “speaks better” than what the second man did? To learn more about the second man and what he did, read Hebrews 11:4.
- a. The NASB, ESV, and NIV all add “the blood” at the end of the verse in reference to Abel in hopes of bringing clarity to what the author is communicating in verse 24.¹ Unfortunately, that choice seems to have muddied the waters rather than providing the insight needed. The NKJV provides better help by simply translating the verse as the original Greek text had it. The NKJV says, “to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” This rendering helps us see the point of comparison between Jesus as our mediator and priest, who offered Himself as a sacrifice that cleanses us from all sin and the offering that Abel gave. We learn from Hebrews 11:4 that Abel offered up an acceptable sacrifice to God, yet even that pleasing sacrifices pales in comparison to Christ’s magnificent one.
 - b. We learn in Hebrews 12:24 that Christ, as the mediator of the new covenant, sprinkled blood. What does that sprinkled blood communicate to us? See 9:11-14, 19-22; 10:19-22; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 1:7.
 - c. The NKJV translation of Hebrews 12:24, “to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel” fits the context of the passage better and leads us to the comparison the author of Hebrews intended us to see, which is the comparison about *speaking*. Look at Hebrews 11:4 and record what you learn about Abel and his sacrifice *speaking* to us. Then note the continued use of *speaking/speaks/spoke* or any reference to communicating in 12:18-29. What does the author of Hebrews want to emphasize about *speaking* in this section of Hebrews (12:18-29)?

¹ In the NASB, when the translation team adds extra information to the original Greek or Hebrew text, they will *italicize* it as way to let the reader know that it deviates from the original text. When it comes to disputed or difficult passages, it’s especially helpful to know when something was not in the original Greek or Hebrew text.

- d. Why is the comparison about what has been spoken or how it was spoken a significant argument or point of comparison throughout the book? See 1:1-2; 2:1-3; 4:2; 10:29; 11:4; 12:24-25.
10. What warning is given in verse 25?
11. Who warned the Israelites on earth? See 1:1; 10:28.
12. What warning have we been given from heaven? See 10:29-31.
13. According to this context in verse 25, how could someone refuse to heed the message of Christ?
14. What do we learn about creation in verses 26-27?
15. What will remain (verse 28)?
16. How do you receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken? See 10:19-22.
17. How should you respond to such a magnificent gift according to verse 28? What are some specific ways you can apply that daily?

18. What does that response allow you to do (verse 28)?
- a. What does your application of the end of verse 28 look like in your daily life? See Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:3; Heb. 9:14.
19. What attitudes are to accompany your offering to God according to verse 28?
20. What do you learn about God in verse 29?
- a. Look up the following verses to learn more: Nahum 1:2-3, 5-8; Luke 3:16-17; Heb. 10:26-31; 2 Pet. 3:7.
21. What does verse 29 have to do with verse 28? How does that connection fit in with the exhortation of verses 18-27?
22. After studying these verses, it makes you wonder why anyone would want to go back to the old law system. Obviously, the author of Hebrews wondered that too. He can't imagine why anyone would reject Christ's magnificent sacrifice and the blessings of the new covenant, to instead return to the never-ending sacrifices and offerings of the old covenant. Even in light of the trials and persecutions the believers were experiencing because they were following Christ, the rewards of following Christ far outweighed any momentary, light affliction in the present. In what way has our study in this passage impacted your attitudes and response to the Lord Jesus and how you are living toward Him?

“All things may pass away; the world as we know it may be uprooted; life as we experience it may come to an end; but one thing stands eternally sure—the relationship of every Christian to God. If that is so, there is a great obligation laid upon us. We must worship God with reverence and serve him with fear; for nothing must be allowed to disturb that relationship which will be our salvation when the world passes away.”

~William Barclay²

“For every man the choice is the same. Whether we are Jew or Gentile, to try to approach God by our works is to come to Sinai and to discover that our works fall short and cannot save us. Whether we are Jew or Gentile, to trust in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ is to come to Zion, where our heavenly High Priest will mediate for us and bring us to the Father, and where we find reconciliation, peace, and eternal life. And if you have truly come to Zion and received all its blessings, it is inconceivable that you would want to hold on to Sinai in any way.” ~John MacArthur³

² William Barclay, [*The Letter to the Hebrews*](#), The New Daily Study Bible (Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002), 222.

³ John F. MacArthur Jr., [*Hebrews*](#), MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1983), 418.