**Greater Than All - wk 23 – Whole lot of Shaken**

**The walk up the mountain for Moses. Thick cloud, lightning, the rumble of the ground… a dark climb… distant sound of trumpets…**

**Making our way in Hebrews, verse by verse keeps us accountable.**

**Hebrews = Jesus, God in the flesh, creator of all, greater than all, the only forgiver of sins. True faith perseveres – so don’t give up!!!**

**Hebrews 12:18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; (Ex 19-20, Deut 4-5) to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, (so overwhelmed) 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.” (Deut 9:19)**

**Mount Sinai – do not touch or be killed, even animals (fenced off) Thunder, lightning, thick clouds, earthquakes - trumpet blown to gather the people. God speaks only to Moses. Exodus paints a picture of dread & gloom – when moment sinful humans interact w/ the Holy God- terror! OT – this was how they came to God.**

**Interestingly this did not promote holiness with Israel – within 2 months they were crafting an idol and worshiped a false god.**

**That is because people, events, church, experiences, camps, conference are not enough!**

**You have not come to God like Mount Sinai… 22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (this is a tricky little passage that speaks powerfully)**

**This is a Tale of Two Mountains**

**A comparison of approaching God in the OC – vs – now in the NC**

**Again, asking why return to OC – it does not compare!**

**22 But you have come to Mount Zion… (the Jerusalem Mount = Calvary)**

* **Mercy triumphs over judgement – James 2:13**

**MS - The law came to Sinai = Judgement.**

**MZ - The cross came to Zion. We come to the cross = grace!**

**22 But you have come… to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.**

* **Jesus can be reached wherever you are**

**MS – they had to come to a physical location**

**MZ - We have come to heavenly Mount Zion (city of God)**

**Romans 10:13 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

**No pilgrimage to distant land. No scary ascent not knowing if you will live when you face Him. Aren’t you glad you don’t have to climb a sacred mountain or travel to… – Jesus is here!**

**In your darkest moments – it the deepest of sin… call out!**

**22 You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly…**

* **You can come into the very Prescence of God!**

**MS – 2/3 angels mentioned at MS – brought messages to Moses**

**MZ – We come into the presence with thousands upon thousands**

[**Ephesians 3:12**](https://biblehub.com/ephesians/3-12.htm) **- In Him and through faith in Him we may enter God's presence with boldness and confidence. / Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

**Thru Jesus we come to his very throne w/ the angles!**

**23We come… to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.**

* **Salvation is for every tribe, tongue, and nation!**

**MS – was given to faithful Israel & prophets (firstborn assembly)**

**MZ – was given for all the redeemed!**

**The OC says – only a select few can know God**

**The NC says you can and are to know God yourself.**

**Daniel 7:14 - And to him (the Messiah) was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.**

**Not just an ethnic group – but everyone. That is why God despises racism and ethnic prejudices.**

**23 You have come to God, the Judge of all…**

* **OT is not a different God – same God, new access.**

**MS – no access to God himself only by representatives - prophets**

**MZ – We now have come to God almighty himself through Christ!**

**The God of the OT is the same God as the NT**

**The great almighty judge of all. No one can escape judgement.**

**23You have come… to the spirits of the righteous made perfect…**

* **You have hope of seeing loved ones in Christ in heaven**

**You have come to the spirits of those in faith gone before us**

**MS – no hope and security for life after death unknown**

**MZ – we come knowing this is not the end for the redeemed!!**

**1 Thes 4- we do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.**

**24 You have come… to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant…**

* **Jesus is the only way to reach God almighty (John 14:6)**

**MS – revealed the holiness and character of God**

**MZ – reveals the grace and mercy of God – through Jesus Christ.**

**Sinai (OC - law) - based on our unattainable perfect works in terror.**

**Zion (NC - grace) we come to Jesus - mediator! In humility thru faith.**

**What is revealing is the pleading with God, “begging no more” (Heb 12:10) Without Jesus the word is a burden and weight.**

**24 …to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.**

* **The cross is an invitation to life and hope**

**MS - Abel’s blood, speaks death and demands justice from God.**

**MZ - Christ blood speaks life and redemption satisfying the justice.**

**The OC says stay away or die – for your own good.**

**The NC says come and live – Jesus made the way for your good!**

**The OC says - God is Holy! Stay away!**

**The NC says - You can be holy – in Christ! Come!**

**When God sees me, He sees Jesus in me!**

**What an amazing privilege that we have – to talk to God!**

**To come to him. We speak to the same God from the mount Sinai – but now we do not come alone. We come with a redeemer.**

**They looked to Moses to hear from God for them. To climb the mount - tell us what God says. Sadly - People still do that today - pastor, speaker, author climb the mountain and tell us God says. But the writer says – stop it! Come to the mountain. Zion is calling! But people would rather meet Moses get a selfie than to go up the mountain themselves!**

**This passage of Hebrews is really like a recap challenge of it all.**

**You can’t have both – either you will live on Sinai or Zion!**

**Again asking, why go back to the old way? Jesus is superior!**

**Heb 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. (voice of God the HS) If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?**

**Do you hear the HS speak today to come to Zion (the cross)?**

**An invitation to know the God of the universe thru Jesus!**

**When God spoke from Mt Sinai warnings were ignored, 40 days later they made an idol (God judged). How much more, when God speaks from the heavenly Mt Zion thru Jesus will we be held accountable?**

**Vs 25 is a warning to not ignore this – no on can escape facing God.**

**Either we come in terror and gloom – or with redemption in Jesus**

**Hebrews 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?**

**Hebrews 10:29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?**

**Heb 12:26 At that time (OT) his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” (Haggai 2:6-9 -foretells the work of Jesus that shakes and changes everything!) 27 The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken - that is, created things - (All material things will be shaken!) so that what cannot be shaken may remain.**

**God is razing and replacing the old with a new and greater way! Replacing the temporary with the eternal!**

**Zion (the cross) is absent temples, rituals, and rules! All that can be shaken will fall – but the new cannot be shaken!**

**Let everything that can be shaken…shake and break away!**

**Let what is of Christ remain.**

**Rules and traditions will be shaken!**

**We need to be careful not to make the tools the rules – and be careful to not use temporary traditions as a litmus for piety.**

**They become a barrier to truly knowing Christ. Let it be shaken!**

**Money and possessions will be shaken!**

**The market, your favorite possessions, that new car / house…**

**Mark 8:35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?**

**Truth is - this world and everything in it will pass away… Why trade eternity for a moment or even a lifetime? Let it be shaken!**

**People and pursuits in our life will be shaken!**

**People will come and go, some will pass on, everyone disappoints**

**Our health will fail, this life is fleeting and shakable. Let it shake!**

**Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken…**

**Only one thing is stable enough to never be shake – Jesus!**

**Matthew 7:24-27 – storms of life will come – but only the one who life is built on the solid rock of Christ – the word of God – will still stand - 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.**

**Only in Jesus we are stable – unshakable – when the world has gone to crazy town, when my marriage is falling apart, when the future of my job is in question, when my friends have left me… when the world in unpredictable – Jesus is unmovable.**

**We have a kingdom that is incapable of instability!**

**Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, (let us have grace - gracious) and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our “God is a consuming fire.” (Deut 4:24)**

**Gratefully holding on to grace – We worship!**

**We thankfully look back at all this and – WORSHIP!**

**But - not just any worship – but acceptable worship.**

**Acceptable worship -vs- unacceptable worship. I wonder how much of what is passed off as worship, is actually acceptable?**

**…so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our “God is a consuming fire.” (Consuming Fire = the majestic holy perfection of God)**

**\*\* What is acceptable worship? Worship that humbly understands the awe and power of God. That never forgets who God is! That the God of Mt Sinai has come to Mt Zion.**

**Worship where the holiness and power of God is central – vs. – arrogant prideful worship that is self-centered.**

**Almighty God of creation – we come to you on your terms.**

**Even though we don’t have the dread of Mt Sinai – we are to have the same awe for the God who was on Mt Sinai. But now his voice calls from Zion – the cross – saying come you can be forgiven.**

**“God is a consuming fire” – sin and those in sin are consumed (judged) in his presence. But those in Christ understand the fire of God’s judgement poured on out Jesus Christ!**

**Christ consumes the sin of all who believe!**

**Know this today:**

**The cross is speaking today – come! Will you hear it or reject?**

**You will either face God like Mt Sinai or with Mt Zion**

* **You will either face God in dread or you can face God in grace!**

**You no longer have to be in terror of God – Jesus offers peace w/ God.**

**Sinai – says fear, works and judgment**

**Zion – says forgiveness and grace – in Jesus.**

**Everything you put your confidence will be shaken and fall… Jesus alone is stable and unmovable.**