

Background Information

The author contrasts the Mosaic covenant with the New Covenant by comparing two mountains: Mount Sinai and Mount Zion. Israel received the Law in fear and trembling on Mount Sinai as God showed them His Holiness and mighty power. They wanted Moses to mediate for them, fearing that if God spoke to them directly, they would die, for he came as a consuming fire.

In contrast the believer comes to a heavenly Jerusalem on Mount Zion by the blood of Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant. The Greek word for mediator means *a go-between*. Moses was the mediator of the first covenant. He acted as a liaison between God and Israel, communicating the obligations of the covenant and pleading Israel's case before God. Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant. He established it through His own death, wiping out the sins of the believer forever. He now sits at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf, mercifully giving us His strength and power to live a holy life. The earth shook at Mount Sinai but the kingdom of God will never be shaken, it will endure for eternity.

LOOKING FOR GOLD - WHAT DOES IT SAY?



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: You may want to begin your reading with Ex. 19, Ex. 20:18-21, Deut. 5:22-29, Ps. 102:25-28, Gal. 4:21-31

Hebrews 12:18-24

18 For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, 19 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. 20 (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." 21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 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, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Digging Deeper



Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Hebrews 12:18–24 _____

Hebrews 12:25-29 _____



REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, “What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?” (aim for 10 words or less)

Hebrews 12:18–24 _____

Hebrews 12:25-29 _____

CHALLENGE: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

FOR DISCUSSION:

What does the blood of Abel signify? Why is Jesus blood better? 12:24 AMP

Look for an example of refusing to listen to God.

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

CHECKING FOR CLARITY: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Hebrews 12:18-24 _____

Hebrews 12:25-29 _____

BARS OF GOLD: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

FLEX YOUR MUSCLES: Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?



HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men,
the Man Christ Jesus

1 Timothy 2:5

Radiating His Truth . . .

If God is shaking things in your life, listen to His Word. You will discover the things that cannot be shaken, and you will run the race to the end. - Warren Wiersbe

