



## Perfecting Hope and Two Encounters • Part 1

Lesson Fifty-Five • Hebrews 12:18-21

### The Fifth and Final Warning in Hebrews

#### Make Every Effort to Pursue Our Future Inheritance Together, While Making Sure None of Us Falls Short of God's Final Salvation!

*Jesus is our Pioneer and Perfector who has already made sure His "sons" will not fall short, so don't and make sure others don't as well!*

- ☐ Encourage and exhort one another all the more as the finish line approaches and our future inheritance lies ahead!
- ☐ Imitate the right examples! *Social media, podcasts, and books are filled with deconstructing "believers" who have abandoned the church but still claim to be Christians and worship a "Jesus" made in their own image.*
- ☐ Don't be deceived by the Deceiver: *You can be blessed with many blessings in this life, and even outwardly be "a good Christian," and still miss out on God's eternal blessings that are only received by persevering faith with perfecting hope!*
- ☐ Don't be deceived by sin: *You cannot persist in habitual sin and become apathetic toward His means of grace (e.g., the local church, gathered worship, spiritual disciplines) and think you will be saved in the end.*

### Contrast of ENCOUNTERING God on Two Mountains

*Mount Sinai and Mount Zion – Hebrews 12:18-24*

#### Focus Is on One People with ONE Encounter that Has Already Been Secured and Is Already Being Enjoyed!

*"For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest" (v. 18, ESV)*

*"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem..." (v. 22, ESV)*

*"Draw near" – 4:16; 7:25; 10:1, 22; 11:6*

**Main Idea:** Our perfecting hope is not fearful **CONDEMNATION** from God but joyful **CELEBRATION** with God and all of heaven, so keep moving forward with persevering faith! (12:18-24)

### Our Perfecting Hope Is Not Fearful Condemnation Like Mount Sinai!

We have not drawn near to God in fearful **GUILT** and dreadful **ANXIETY**.

**Background:** Exodus 19:15-21; 20:18-21 and Deuteronomy 4:11-12; 5:22-27

#### Drawing Near to God Without Jesus as Our Mediator

#### 1. Will Be a PHYSICAL Encounter That Is Experienced with Bodily Senses!

*"For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched..." (v. 18)*

#### 2. Will Be an INFERNAL Encounter of White-Hot Holiness!

*"and to a blazing fire..." (v. 18)*

*Hebrews 10:27; 12:29; 1:7*

#### 3. Will Be a DREADFUL Encounter of Darkness, Gloom, and Deadly Storm!

*"and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind..." (v. 18)*

#### Seven-Fold Encounter of Fearful Condemnation & Separation

##### You Have Not Drawn Near...

1. to what can be touched
2. and to what has been burning, fire
3. and to darkness
4. and to gloom
5. and to whirlwind/tornado
6. and to trumpet blast
7. and to Voice speaking words

##### Two Responses

1. Israel begged to hear no more and failed to enter God's promised inheritance!
2. Moses the Mediator was full of fear...when God was ready to judge them!

#### 4. Will Be an **UNAVOIDABLE** Encounter with a Blasting Trumpet to Announce God 's Arrival!

*"and to the blast of a trumpet..." (v. 19)*

#### 5. Will Be a **VERBAL** Encounter with a "Voice of Words"!

*and the sound of words..." (v. 19)*

#### Two Responses Recorded

##### 1. The People's Response to the **VOICE: Refuses to Listen Further!**

*"which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command, 'If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned.'" (vv. 19-20)*

##### 2. The Mediator's Response to the **SIGHT: Witnesses to His Fear of God!**

*"And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, 'I am full of fear and trembling.'" (v. 21)*

After the Golden Calf Idolatry, Immorality, and Apostasy – Deuteronomy 9:19

"Fear" – Hebrews 2:25; 4:1; 11:27; 12:21

#### Two Penetrating Questions

- Have you not yet drawn near to Mount Zion and entered into God's holy presence by the shed blood of Jesus?
- As a believer who has already drawn near to Jesus are you still drawing near to God in fearful guilt and dreadful anxiety, or do you avoid drawing near to Him at all?

We have already drawn near to God with joyful forgiveness with worshipful access and we remain there in good times and bad, in times of sinful failure and fleshly weakness!

*"Therefore **LET US DRAW NEAR with confidence to the throne of grace,** so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* (4:16)

***"LET US DRAW NEAR with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."* (10:22)

#### One Perfecting Hope

Draw near to Jesus this morning to be saved or to enjoy what is already yours as a believer with persevering faith with perfecting hope!