

## Which Mountain: Sinai or Zion?

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 19; Hebrews 12:18-29; 10:19-22

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Exodus 19 - God promised Moses (3:12) His people would come back to mountain to worship Him. An unfolding chapter in the story of God's redemption unfolding since Gen 3:15 realized in Jesus Mt 1:23.

### God's Holiness

- God was bringing His people close to worship Him.
- Transcendence - "God's distance from His creatures because of His holiness and majesty."
- Clouds of glory - 9,16,18 - majesty & power, God veiled
- Stay off mountain - 12,17,21 - keep your distance

So why the restrictions?

- God is Holy, transcendent and separate, He protected by setting limits.
- God is not just a super-man. He is the Great I Am Ex 3:14; Ex 33:20
- Same Holy God today: 1 Tim 6:15-16. "God is dangerous"

### Preparing for An Encounter with A Holy God

How do we approach a holy, transcendent God?

- God provided a mediator - Moses chosen by God Ex 3:13ff. Ex 19:7-8
- God's people needed to prepare for worship (encountering God)
  - wash garments - sanctification. The Holy King was coming so they needed to wash - outward sign pointed to inward reality. 2 Cor 7:1. Remember God's doesn't redeem us to wallow in sin 1 Pet 1:14-16
  - refrain from fleshly distractions - nothing wrong or sinful about sex within marriage boundaries God has provided, but there is a time to refrain for the purposes of spiritual devotion: 1 Cor 7:1-5.

### Understanding with a New Covenant Reality

- Worship is a Covenant Renewal Ceremony
- God initiated the Covenant & saved them – they simply responded
- As New Covenant believers we have a far greater reality: Heb 12:18-29
- NOT Mt. Sinai - blazing fire, darkness, gloom... FEAR 18-21
- BUT Mt. Zion - city of living God; peace & safety; celebration
- WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? God is the same, God is still judge
- We come through Jesus Christ as Mediator & Savior Heb 12:24; 7:27; 9:26; 10:10
- Jesus Christ came to deliver us from the terror of God's Law

### Where do you want to meet God? Sinai or Zion

- Sinai - keep the law, you can try but you will fail: Rom 3:23; Jer 17:9; Jms 2:10
- Zion - Jesus is your mediator—approach with confidence Heb 10:19-22; 2 Cor 5:21

## Think & Discuss:

- **How do these lyrics of John Newton explain a believer's position?**

Let us love and sing and wonder	Let us wonder grace and justice
Let us praise the Savior's name	Join to point to mercy's store
He has hushed the law's loud thunder	When thru grace in Christ our trust is
He has quenched Mt. Sinai's flame	Justice smiles and asks no more
He has washed us with His blood	He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood	He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood	He has washed us with His blood
He has brought us nigh to God	Has secured our way to God

- **How often do you think of God as Holy? What should that look like for us today?**
- **God has not changed since Creation or Exodus 19 or today... How can we properly reverence God as Holy considering passages like Exodus 33:20; 1 Tim 6:15-16; 1 Pet 1:14-16.**
- **Israel was to prepare for an encounter with their Holy God by washing their garments and refraining from fleshly distractions. How are we to prepare for an encounter (worship) with God as we live our lives as living sacrifices (Rom 12:1-2)?**
- **How are we to cleanse ourselves today? 2 Cor 7:1; 1 Pet 1:14-16**
- **Some have said that Ex 19:15 shows us that sex is not holy. But God gave sex within marriage Gen 2:24 and even declares that it is undefiled Heb 13:4. Read 1 Cor 7:1-5, when and for what purpose is it appropriate to refrain from marital relations?**
- **Considering the 2 mountains: Sinai (law) & Zion (gospel), how many contrasts can you find in Heb 12:18-29?**
- **In light of Mt. Zion and the hope of Jesus Christ our Mediator, what does that look like in your daily life? Your worship life? Your thought life? Your relationship to others?**
- **If you look at the Bible as the story of God with 4 acts: Creation, Fall, Redemption, & Restoration. Where does this story of Exodus 19 fit in? How is it incomplete without a further understanding of Jesus Christ as explained in Hebrews 12?**