

## **Mount Zion vs. Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1-20; Hebrews 12: 18-29)**

“For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched, that is ablaze with fire, and to gloom and darkness and a raging storm, and to the blast of a trumpet and a voice whose words make the listeners beg that nothing more be said to them” (Hebrews 12:18-19); but rather, you have come to Mount Zion, even to the city of the living YAHWEH, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless multitudes of angels in festal gathering, to the assembly of the first born whose names have been written in heaven, to YAHWEH, who is the judge of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect, to YAHSHUA, and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel (Vs.22-24).

The difference between the experience at Mount Zion and Mount Sinai is worth noting for us to realize the wonderful grace of YAHWEH toward us. For when YAHWEH came down to the Mount Sinai to meet the people of Israel, He came expressing vehemently His holiness through fire, in a dense and black cloud that enveloped the mountain. At that time He declared His covenant with the people and gave them the Ten Commandments. Israel had just had a glimpse of the extent of the holiness of YAHWEH; and not being able to bear it they begged Moses not to hear one more word coming from Him.

The Ten Commandments given Israel were guidelines of YAHWEH’S holiness for them to follow. They were rigid, with consequences upon their disobedience; the manifestations in which YAHWEH showed His holiness were manifestations that showed judgment; Israel were to see with fear the consequences of their disobedience to the laws YAHWEH was giving them, as the writer of the letter to the Hebrews said, If anyone disregarded Moses law, he died without mercy, based on the testimony of two witnesses (Hebrews 10:28). Here remains the fact that no forgiveness was applied to the one who had broken the Law, for the Law was the picture of the rigidity of the holiness of YAHWEH.

In the allegory given to the Galatians, Mount Sinai represents the covenant that bears slavery children, as in the person of Hagar who, a bondmaid gave birth to a child born according to the flesh vs. Sarah considered the free woman, the wife of Abraham, who had given birth to a son in fulfillment of the promise (Galatians 4:22-24). The meeting in Mount Sinai between YAHWEH and the people of Israel well represents the sinner outside of His grace, in need to repent and turn to YAHWEH for a holy living. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews in 10:26 warned, If we deliberately sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire about to consume the adversaries. Mount Sinai is the representation of the Law and the sinful condition of men before the holy YAHWEH! It shows Him in the judgment of consuming fire, without mercy against those who break the Law, causing the sinner to hide from His presence; Mount Sinai condemns and demands continuous sacrifice of innocent animals to atone for the sins of men, without power of cleansing them once and for all.

But in contrast, in read in Hebrews 12: 18- 24, But you have not come to what could be touched, to a blazing fire, to darkness, gloom and storm, to the blast of a trumpet, and the sounds of word to the point of not bearing, no, you have come to Mount Zion that is, the heavenly city, to the Mediator YAHSHUA, whose blood has forgiven you and made you whole; to the assembly of those whose names are written in heaven, you have come to YAHWEH, Who is the judge of all, to the myriads of angels in festive gathering. Yes, you who have been redeemed, purchased and sealed with YAHWEH'S HOLY SPIRIT, you have come to Mount Zion, the city of our YAHWEH, the New Jerusalem! Where there is no more condemnation, but grace, His unmerited favor, is bestowed on you. The meeting between YAHWEH and his redeemed on Mount Zion is a meeting of peace and forgiveness and salvation. YAHWEH no longer comes in a thick dark cloud, with smoke and fire, but He comes to us as a Father, a merciful and loving father with justification as He considers the substitution work of His Son, fulfilling all the Law and its requirements given on Mount Sinai.

Mount of Zion is a covenant of grace; it is the covenant of salvation, not by the deeds of the flesh but by the sacrifice of YAHSHUA offered on the Mount of Calvary to all who would accept Him. The covenant of grace gives the born again the fulfillment of the promise; we are children of the free woman- Sarah; we are children of the promise, as Isaac was and in him YAHWEH'S promises were fulfilled in the person of YAHSHUA, His Son. We were born again in fulfillment of the promise given Abraham on another mountain on the region of Moriah many years before. YAHWEH said to him, In blessing I will bless you and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants like the stars of the heavens and like the sand on the seashore. And your SEED will possess the gate of His enemies; and in your SEED shall all the nations of the earth be blessed and [by Him] bless themselves, because you have heard and obeyed My voice (Genesis 22:17-18). So we can come to Mount Zion, the city of our YAHWEH, with full confidence and trust, because of our great High Priest –YAHSHUA, the mediator of our soul and Savior of our spirit; He Who holds the key to it, has opened and allowed us to enter into His presence with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water (Heb. 12: 19-23).

Mount Zion, the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, will someday descend out of heaven from YAHWEH, all arrayed like a bride beautified and adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2). Mount Zion, the covenant of love, the covenant of peace waits for all who understands that there is no salvation in Mount Sinai, as it represents the Law with all its requirements. Come to Mount Zion, my friend and learn that salvation is only available to you there; flee Mount Sinai and its condemnation, YAHSHUA has already paid the price of your salvation, and He waits you there in Mount Zion!

**THINK ABOUT IT!**