

# Before The Mountain!

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Purpose: to warn the listeners not to refuse Him who speaks and to encourage them to serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Review: what have we seen so far?

- The children of Israel were slaves in Egypt
- God raised up Moses to lead them to freedom
- They came into difficulties as they were travelling (lacking food, water, etc.) but God tested them and prepared them
- In the third month after they left Egypt they finally arrive at a very special place: Mount Sinai!

Let's see what happened – Read Exodus 19:1-25

Moses goes up into the mountain and received a message for the people (vs. 3-6)

- God addressed them:
  - You saw what I did to the Egyptians – the miracles and the Red Sea
  - How I bore you on eagle's wings – with strength and speed delivered them from the Egyptians
  - And brought you to Myself – He told Moses that this would be the sign that he was sent (Ex. 3:12)
  - If you obey My voice and keep My covenant:
    - You shall be a special treasure to Me above above all people
    - You shall be a kingdom of priests
    - And a holy nation

Moses delivers the message (v. 7)

- He tells the elders of the people
- He laid before them God's words

The people promise obedience (v. 8)

God tells them that He will meet them in a thick cloud (v. 9)

- So that they may hear when He speaks to Moses
- So that they will believe that God spoke to Moses forever
- God always establishes and exalts His leaders

They are told to consecrate themselves (vs. 10-15)

- Wash their clothes
- Be ready for the third day
- Do not come near your wives
- Set bounds to prevent the people from touching the mountain and dying
- Come near the mountain on the third day

Moses brings the people to meet with God (vs. 16-18)

- There was thunder and lightening
- There was a thick cloud
- There was the sound of a trumpet (Rev 1:10, 4:1; Mat 24:31; 1Cor 15:52; 1The 4:16)
- Mount Sinai is completely in smoke
- The LORD descends upon it in fire
- The whole mountain quaked
- The people trembled

Moses spoke and God answered him by voice (vs. 19-24)

- The LORD came down upon the top of the mountain
- Moses goes up the mountain
- God tells Moses to warn the people not to gaze
- He tells him to consecrate the priest

What is happening here?

We have one of the most amazing appearances of the glory of God in this world. Why?

- To discover the glory of and majesty of God – He showed them who He is!
- To emphasise the seriousness and importance of what is about to be revealed
- To test them – to see whether they would obey Him or not
- To make sure that they feared Him
- To prevent them from sinning

**Heb 12:18** For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest,

**Heb 12:19** 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.

**Heb 12:20** (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.")

**Heb 12:21** And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I AM EXCEEDINGLY AFRAID AND TREMBLING.")

**Heb 12:22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

**Heb 12:23** 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,

**Heb 12:24** to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

**Heb 12:25** See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,

**Heb 12:26** whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO HEAVEN."

**Heb 12:27** Now this, "YET ONCE MORE," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

**Heb 12:28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

**Heb 12:29** For our God is a consuming fire.

Conclusion:

- The things that happened to the children of Israel are for our example:
- God took them to the wilderness and spoke to them, yet even after this they still refused to trust and obey Him.
- We have an even greater witness; Jesus, who speaks to us from heaven
- Let's not turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, but make it our aim to serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear