

Hebrews

Bigger, better, brighter, bolder

Lesson 16:

Two Mighty Mountains

Hebrews 12:18-29

Hebrews 12:18-29 contrasts the spiritual significance of two mighty Bible mountains.

18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned."

Exodus 19:12-13

21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

Deuteronomy 9:19

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

Haggai 2:6

27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

Deuteronomy 4:24

1. **Mount Sinai**

- ▶ Mount Sinai was the mountain on which God gave the Law to Moses (Exodus 19:18 and 34:32).
- ▶ Mount Sinai represents the old covenant, built on laws and regulations and a system of animal sacrifices.

2. **Mount Zion**

- ▶ Mount Zion in Jerusalem, distinct from Mount Moriah (temple mount), is often used to refer to Jerusalem.
- ▶ Mount Zion represents the new covenant, established by Jesus Christ's atoning death and resurrection.

You haven't come to Mount Sinai

▲ **The fiery, stormy Sinai**

12:18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned."

▲ **The frightening sight**

12:21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

▲ **The forceful shaking**

12:26 At that time his voice shook the earth,

▲ **The fatal sentence**

12:25 If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth,

You have come to Mount Zion

▲ **You have come to Jerusalem and her saints**

12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,

WHAT, WHERE, and WHEN is this Mount Zion to whom the SAINTS, both JEWS and GENTILES, have come?

1. There is a present earthly Mount Zion in the city of Jerusalem (Psalm 48:2).
2. Mount Zion will be the headquarters of Jesus during his Millennial reign on earth (Micah 4:7).
3. The Apostle John saw a vision of a future Mount Zion (Jesus standing on it) in his vision on Patmos (Revelation 14:1).

Revelation 14:1 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

- Was it a vision of a heavenly Mount Zion where Jesus was standing in the middle of the Tribulation (chronological)?
- Or was it a vision of the earthly Mount Zion where Jesus would stand at the end of the Tribulation (a preview)?
- Note the contrast—Antichrist stands on sand (Revelation 13:1) while Christ stands on the mountain (Revelation 14:1).

4. Hebrews 12:22 seems to present "Mount Zion" and "the heavenly Jerusalem" as parallel, even synonymous ideas.
5. The new Jerusalem of Revelation 21:2 will be part of the new heaven of 21:1, but that will be created after this present age.
6. We conclude that we have come, spiritually, presently, to a heavenly Mount Zion, and that there is a heavenly Jerusalem.
7. And, in a spiritual sense, we are dwelling there even now — consider the present and future aspects of Ephesians 2:6-7.

Ephesians 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8. We might say that, though we live here, we belong there — consider the present and future aspects of Philippians 3:20.

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

9. This Mount Zion, heavenly Jerusalem, city of the living God is inhabited by angels, followers of Christ, and God himself.

▲ **You have come to Jesus the sacrificed Savior**

12:24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

The speaking blood of Jesus is contrasted with the speaking blood of Abel.

1. Cain killed his brother Abel in Genesis 4:8-10, and God declared that Abel's blood was crying out from the ground.

Genesis 4:8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

2. Hebrews 11:4 declared that Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

3. Jesus' blood speaks a better word — grace instead of guilt — sonship instead of separation — heaven instead of hell!

▲ **You have come to the Jealous Judge and Sovereign Shaker**

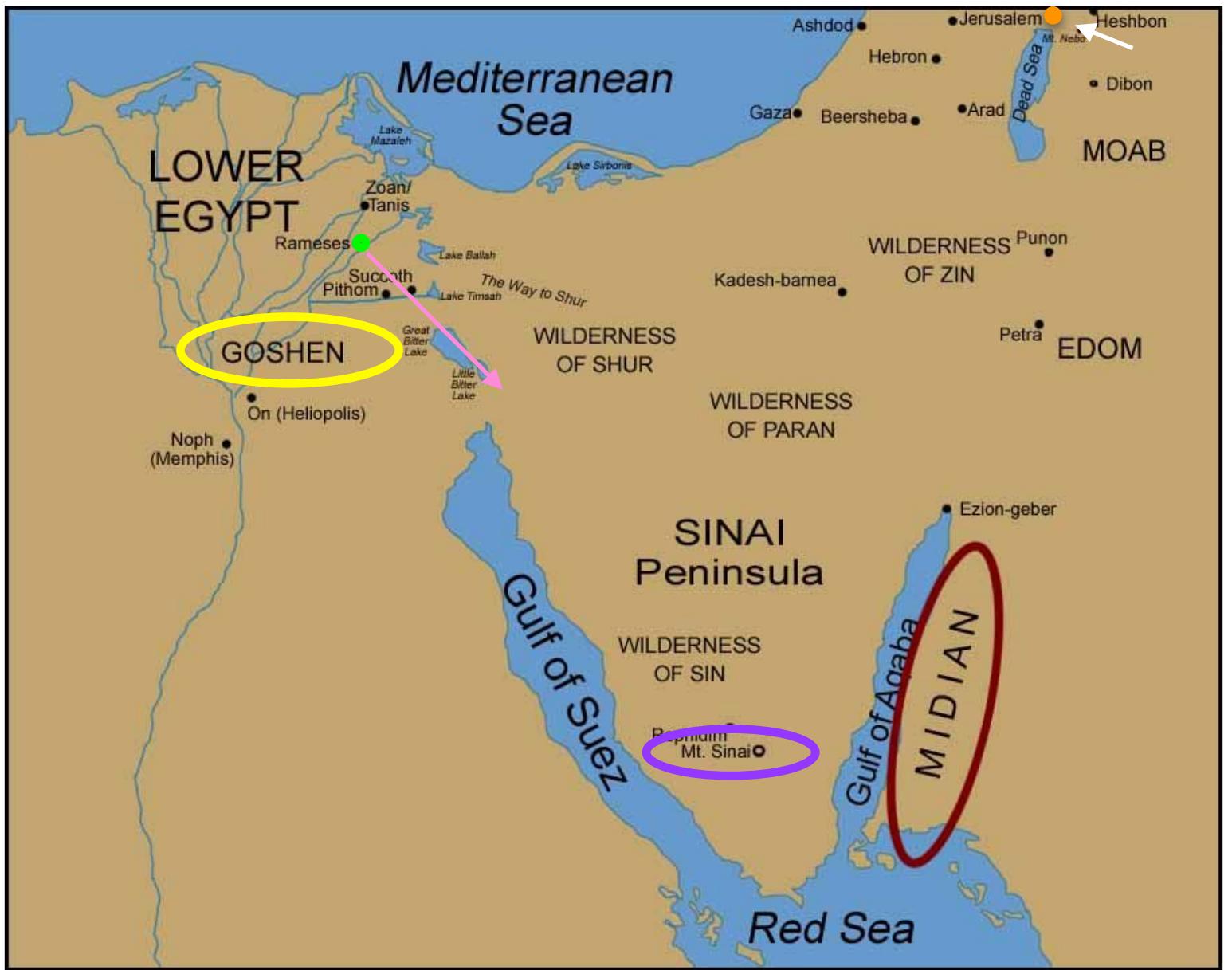
12:23 You have come to God, the judge of all men, — 25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

▲ **You have come to a joyful surrender**

12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

We are receiving — We are rejoicing — We are responding



Mountains of Jerusalem

