

The background is a dark, textured black. On the left side, there is a large, dark red cross. Below the cross, there is a silhouette of a mountain range in a deep red color. The text is positioned on the right side of the image.

THE TWO MOUNTAINS

HEBREWS - NEW AND LIVING WAY

HEBREWS 12:18-29

The image features a dark, almost black background. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a large, dark red cross. To the left of the cross, there are several red geometric shapes: a vertical bar, a horizontal bar, and a small square, all connected by thin red lines, resembling a stylized architectural or symbolic structure. The bottom of the image shows a silhouette of a landscape with rolling hills, rendered in a dark red color. The text is positioned in the upper right area of the image.

MOUNT SINAI

- VS.18-21

This contrast is not unique to Hebrews, Paul also uses it in Galatians

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

Galatians 4:22-26

ESV

Our author emphasizes they have NOT come to Sinai, a physical mountain

**The symbols come from the first camp of Israel at Mt Sinai -
blazing fire, darkness, gloom, whirlwind, blast of a trumpet,
voice of thunder - these events were frightening to all involved**

On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.

Exodus 19:16-19

ESV

God's voice was so frightening that the people begged Moses for him to speak with God privately, but they could not stand to hear it again

Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”

Exodus 20:18-19

ESV

Although the mountain “could” be touched because it was made of matter, they could not touch it because it was holy

And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them.”

Exodus 19:21-22

ESV

This emphasizes the inaccessibility of God, they had come to Him, yet they were still excluded from Him

The background is a dark, textured red. On the left side, there is a large, dark red cross. In the center, there is a smaller, solid red cross. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant.

MOUNT ZION

- VS.22-24

They “have come” is from the Greek verb proselyte in the perfect tense (completed action), which is a common theme of Hebrews

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

ESV

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

ESV

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

Hebrews 10:1

ESV

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:22

ESV

**And without faith it is impossible to please him,
for whoever would draw near to God must believe
that he exists and that he rewards those who seek
him.**

Hebrews 11:6

ESV

**To Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly
Jersualem**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:1-2

ESV

**But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our
mother.**

Galatians 4:26

ESV

To myriads (lit. tens of thousands) of angels

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

Revelation 5:11

ESV

For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

Hebrews 2:2

ESV

To the general assembly (festal gathering) and church (congregation / assembly) of the firstborn (perhaps referring to Esau who sold his birthright, an immoral action); this collection is much more than a local church meeting on Sunday for a worship service

**To God, the judge of all, whom they could not see, touch, or
hear at Sinai**

To the spirits of righteous men made perfect (saints who have left their mortal bodies, but are now made perfect)

**since God had provided something better for us,
that apart from us they should not be made
perfect.**

Hebrews 11:40

ESV

To Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant

**This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better
covenant.**

Hebrews 7:22

ESV

For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

Hebrews 8:7-8

ESV

To sprinkled blood

Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Hebrews 9:23-24

ESV

Which speaks better than the blood of Abel, which condemns

And the Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.

Genesis 4:10

ESV

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

Hebrews 11:4

ESV

The background of the slide is a dark red, almost black, landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, simple cross. To the left of the cross, there is a dark, rectangular structure that resembles a building or a monument. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the red tones of the landscape providing a somber and dramatic atmosphere.

**THE UNSHAKABLE
MOUNTAIN - VS.
25-29**

**See that you do not refuse the speaker, God, as Israel did at
Sinai**

Israel did not listen to the warning from Moses and died in the wilderness

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.” Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

Numbers 14:5-10

ESV

How much less (lesser to greater) if we do not heed the warning directly from heaven, despite the obvious physical dangers we face?

God promises He will shake heaven and earth one more time

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.

Haggai 2:6

ESV

**The obvious message of limiting this to one more time means
that which can be shaken will not survive, but be removed,
leaving only the unshakeable**

Context of Haggai shows this speaks of the restored temple of God, which will have more glory than the original tabernacle / temple ever did, because all the nations will bring their wealth to it

Solomon's temple had the gold of the nations, but this temple will have something more precious, the souls from all nations

Moreover, the fleet of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought from Ophir a very great amount of almug wood and precious stones.

1 Kings 10:11

ESV

Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold, besides that which came from the explorers and from the business of the merchants, and from all the kings of the west and from the governors of the land.

1 Kings 10:14-15

ESV

All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. None were of silver; silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon. For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind. Every one of them brought his present, articles of silver and gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.

1 Kings 10:21-25

ESV

When our eyes are truly open to see the glory of this temple, to which we have come (perfect tense), what do we do? We show gratitude by offering acceptable service (not just our Sunday assemblies), with reverence and awe

If we don't, our God is also a consuming fire

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Hebrews 10:26-27

ESV

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:31

ESV

The image features a dark, almost black background. On the left side, there is a red graphic consisting of a vertical line that turns into a horizontal line at the top, resembling a stylized cross or a corner bracket. In the center-left, there is a large, solid red cross. The bottom of the image shows a dark red, wavy shape that looks like a shadow or a stylized ground line. The text 'QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK:' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font in the upper right quadrant.

**QUESTION FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

1- What is acceptable service?

2- How important is it to have leadership among God's people?

3- Why is it important where Jesus was crucified?

4- How are we enabled to do these good things?