

**A Better Way
A Better Place
Hebrews 12.18-29**

Hebrews is the book of the Better Way, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**
 - Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
 - Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
 - Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **Our Better Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **Our Better “So Great A Salvation”** (2.3)
- **Our Better Word From God** – This King James Bible
- **A Better Anchor of the Soul** (Heb 6)
- **A Better Blood** (Heb 9)
- **A Better Faith** (Heb 11.1)
- **A Better Race** (Heb 12.1)
- **A Better Chastening** (Heb 12.4)

Today we discover our Better Place

Read Text – Heb 12.18-29

Notice in our text two places, **Mount Sinai** where Moses took Israel after their deliverance from Egypt, and **Mount Zion**, Jerusalem, where the Temple or Dwelling place of God was.

A. The Fierce Law of God (vs 18-20; Exo 19.16-25; 20) – Mount Sinai

When God first manifested himself to Israel at mount Sinai it was a terrifying experience. When God descended upon the mount there was,

Exo 20.18

- A Thick Cloud
- Thunders and Lightnings
- An Exceeding Loud Trumpet
- Rolling Smoke
- A Quaking Earth
- The Declared Law of God

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A. The Fierce Law Of God

Then God gave the Ten Commandments as recorded in Exodus 20.

The response of the people was,

*Exodus 20:18–21 - And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. ¹⁹And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, **lest we die.** ²⁰And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: **for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.** ²¹And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.*

This was all a terrifying experience for the People of Israel.

Why was the Giving of the Law so terrifying? Notice in verse 20, **“ . . . That ye sin not.”**

Rom 7.7

The Law Reveals Sin

*Romans 7:7–13 - What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. **Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law:** for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. ⁸But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. ⁹For I was*

alive without the law once: **but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.** ¹⁰And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. ¹¹For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. ¹²Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. ¹³Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; **that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**

This whole manifestation on Mount Sinai with God and the giving of the law was to reveal that **sin is exceeding sinful.**

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A. The Fierce Law Of God

Sin is Exceeding Sinful!

Sin is Exceeding Sinful!

Isa 59.2

We human beings tend to look very lightly upon our sin. God sees sin as very grave indeed.

Our Text today is not so much about the expression of the law at Mount Sinai or the content of the law. Our text today is about our placement, where we stand with God.

Israel, when standing at the base of Mount Sinai were sinners looking up at a Holy and Fierce God who had to get through to them that they were fully separated from God. Why were they separated from God?

Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

It was the sins of the people, which they did not see as so exceedingly sinful, that placed the barriers at the bottom of the mount and manifested the fierce law and judgment of Almighty God.

Sin is always serious business with God.

How deadly serious is Sin in the sight of God?

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; . . .

This death is an eternity in the lake of fire and brimstone.

The more immediate result of our sinfulness is our complete separation of God. God does not want those whom He so lovingly created to be separated from Him. He takes pleasure in being close to those He loves so very much.

Lost Souls and Carnal Sinful Christians are just like those Israelite's standing at the bottom of Mount Sinai looking up at the fierceness of God coming Judgment.

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A. The Fierce Law Of God

B. The Glorious Grace of God (vs 22-24)

The Redeemed side of life. In our text there is the fierceness of Mount Sinai but there is also the mercy and grace of Mount Zion.

We are in a far Better Place than Israel was In Exodus 19 & 20. We are come unto (vs 22-24),

- **Mount Sion** – The place of rest and promise that God offered to Israel, The House of God, the place of forgiveness and restoration.
- **The City of the Living God** – Israel by their sin was separated from God, we join the Living God in His glorious city
- **The Heavenly Jerusalem** – This is a place not of this corrupt world it is immortal and eternal, the Heavenly Jerusalem.
- **The Innumerable Company of Angels** – Right in the same place as the Holy Angels.
- **The General Assembly of the Church** – Just as God promised and we trusted all of the born again Christians that have gone on before us are in this presence.
- **God the Judge of All** – The same God whose judgment was the fierce, with rolling smoke and lightnings and thunders of Mount Sinai, is now seen in the illuminating judgment of the redeemed. **When you come to a judge in righteousness the judgment is very different.**
- **The Spirits of Just men made perfect** – This explains why the judgment is so very different. We are **made perfect** through the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross. We are clothed with His Righteousness.

1 John 1.7

- **The Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ** – So much better than the blood of Able’s Lamb. Why?

*1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

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**A. The Fierce Law Of God
B. The Glorious Grace Of God**

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!

Do you understand that our Lord Jesus Christ has changed everything for us in that He and through His cleansing blood brings us into a whole new place with God. We no longer need to stand at the bottom of Mount Sinai looking up at the Fierce Judgment of Almighty God, but through our Lord Jesus Christ we now can stand right in the very presence of God, with innumerable angels, and the General Assembly of the Church, enamored in the wonder and glory of our Heavenly Father.

C. The Place You Choose To Stand (vs 25-29)

You are standing in one of two places and the place you stand is the place you have chosen to stand.

Lost Souls and Carnal or Prodigal Christians stand at the base of Mount Sinai looking up at the rolling fiery cloud with its ascending boisterous smoke, with the thundering and lightning with the quaking earth and loud trumpeting of the Judgment of God that is the result of any and all sin and rebellion.

The terrifying prospect of the soon coming and well deserved judgment of Almighty God and its ominous results.

The Spiritual Christian on the other hand stand in the Holy Mount Zion the city of the Living God, awe struck by the Glory and Grace of their redeemer, absorbed in the love and mercy of God who has made them and redeemed them, and all who compose the assembly of the Church, righteous.

The wonder and glory of this position in the Lord Jesus Christ enamors them in confidence and the absolute wonder of the acceptance of their Heavenly Father.

Now Ask Yourself, Where do you stand in reference to God?

Where does God want you to stand?

There is a far Better Place to stand through our Lord Jesus Christ. Will you choose to stand in that place?

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Jan 23, 2022

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**A. The Fierce Law Of God
B. The Glorious Grace Of God
C. The Place You Choose To Stand**