

1/2

(:18-21) = This Is Your Life Apart From Jesus.

(These verses are referring to the giving of the law (10 Commandments described in (Ex.19, 20:18-20)

- The mountain that could be touched was Mt. Sinai - God's presence in the material world.
- God revealed His awesome power to man through his physical senses.
- Remember the Wizard of Oz?...
 - God is no little man hiding behind a curtain - He's for real!
- That display at Mt. Sinai was just a glimpse of the majesty, the glory, the awesome power of God & the people who witnessed that display were scared nearly to death! Even Moses was terrified!
 - When you're in danger of being destroyed, terror is the appropriate response.
 - The Israelites couldn't bear to be in God's presence.

(That's still true.)

- Sinful man cannot coexist with a Holy God.
 - Fire & Ice - Light & Darkness.
 - By there very natures, one destroys the other.

(Sinful man cannot endure the presence of God & to even be anywhere near Him is terrifying.)

- This is your life the way it used to be.
- The person who refuses God's grace, who seeks to earn God's favor by doing good works, has a relationship w/God based on terror & fear of God's judgment.

(:22-24) = This Is Your Life In Jesus

- Quite a different picture! The person who accepts God's gift of grace, enjoys a beautiful relationship of peace w/God in this life & the glorious hope of eternity in His presence beyond this life.
- re. Mt. Zion is used in contrast to Mt. Sinai, as God's presence in the spiritual world.
- re. God the Judge - re. (Ephesians. 2:10) *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
 - That's the only judgement people of faith will ever face:
 - How invested were you during your time on earth, in the kingdom work God prepared for you?
 - ≠ Punishment / hell
 - = Reward - Well done... enter my rest...
- re. The blood - it's an unpleasant subject, but the shed blood of Jesus is what takes you from a Mt. Sinai relationship w/God (terror) & places you into the Mt. Zion relationship of peace with God.

(This is your life apart from Jesus, when you lived in terror of God's judgment. And this is your life now - your life in Jesus - a life of peace & hope. Now that the writer has so clearly contrasted the two, he exhorts us...)

(:25-27) This is the crescendo of the letter.

- re. (Hebrews 1:1) *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*
 - Almost has a "Once upon a time..." ring to it.
- Then he makes a case, which leads to a "Therefore" (cf. ch. 2, 3, 4, 6, 12)
- Building momentum & intensity; Transitioning from "Once upon a time" to "See to it..."
 - It's a stern rebuke as well as an urgent plea;
 - This is reality! This is the truth! This is what life is all about! Don't blow it!

This Is Your Life If You Accept God's Grace, This Is Your Life If You Don't

This Is Your Life If You Accept God's Grace, This Is Your Life If You Don't

- re. Him who speaks = 1:2; Transfiguration (Mark. 9:7) "This is my Son. Listen to Him."
- The gospel of Jesus is the revelation of God to man.
 - Moses echoed God's word to man; In Jesus, we've heard directly from God.
 - If we refuse/turn away from Jesus, it's because of pride/stubbornness & we condemn ourselves...
- At Sinai God shook the earth (w/quake) as a display of His power, to cause man to fear Him.
 - (Exodus 20:20) *God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.*"
- Next time, everything in this material, physical world will be shaken off like dirt shaken off a rug.
 - Remember [**Mt. 7:24-27**]? (Build your house on the Rock.)
 - This world, all creation, will cease to exist. Revelation 21 describes the new world we'll live in.

[28-29] Therefore...

- Have grace / be thankful (be in possession of *charis*)
 - The worship that is acceptable to God, the worship of a resident of Mt. Zion, is to have grace
 - Receive & remain in the grace that saves us, remembering with reverence & awe that our God is a consuming fire.
 - I don't know what blows me away more - the thought of God as an all consuming fire, or the thought of God as a non-consuming fire (e.g. burning bush.)
- There is a delicate balance between intimacy & respect.
 - We have the right to climb right up on our heavenly Father's lap.
 - But we have to remember who He is & never be so casual in our intimacy that we become disrespectful.