The New Mountain

Introduction:
A. Heb. 12:18-29

I. THE NEW MOUNTAIN TO WHICH WE HAVE COME
A. It is not Mount Sinai - Heb. 12:18-21
   1. The mountain described first is Mount Sinai, to which Israel came following their deliverance from Egyptian bondage - Ex. 19:12-19
      a. It appeared to be like a volcano - Ex. 20:18; Deut. 4:11
      b. It frightened the people - Deut. 5:22-26
      c. Even Moses was afraid - Deut. 9:19
   2. We have not come to such a mountain that forces us to stand afar off
B. It is Mount Zion - Heb. 12:22-24
   1. The mountain to which we have come encourages us to draw near!
   2. Zion was originally the stronghold of the Jebusites in Jerusalem that eventually became the city of David - 2Sam. 5:6-7, 9-10
      a. Zion came to be used to refer to:
         1) The city of Jerusalem - Psalm 48:1-2
         2) The heavenly Jerusalem where God dwells
            Isa. 28:16; Psalm 2:6; Rev. 14:1
   3. In coming to Mount Zion, we have also come to:
      a. "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem"
         1) The heavenly city longed for by Abraham and other pilgrims - Heb. 11:10, 13-16
         2) The heavenly city longed for by Christians today
            Heb. 13:14
         3) The heavenly city we will one day experience
            Rev. 3:12, 21:1-7, 22:14
         4) "This heavenly city is where our Lord dwells and is our eternal home. In coming to Christ we have come into the covenant which gives us the right to a place in that city."
            (B. W. Johnson, People's New Testament)
      b. "an innumerable company of angels"
         1) Heavenly servants of God in great numbers - Rev. 5:11
         2) Who minister to those who will inherit salvation - Heb 1:14
      c. "the general assembly and church of the firstborn registered in heaven"
         1) The church in the universal sense, made up of all of the saved - Acts 2:47
         2) The Firstborn enjoys the special privileges of his birthright -- primogeniture
         3) Their names are in the Book of Life - Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5
      d. "God the Judge of all"
         1) The Judge of all the earth - Gen 18:25
e. "the spirits of just men made perfect"
   1) Those who died in faith, such as the Old Testament heroes of faith - Heb. 11:39-40
   2) They had not been made perfect apart from us, but were redeemed by the blood of Christ - Heb. 9:15
f. "Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant"
   1) He is the Mediator of a better covenant - Heb. 8:6
   2) This new covenant is by means of His death - Heb. 9:15
g. "the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel"
   1) Abel speaks through the example of his faith - Heb. 11:4
      a) The sacrifice Christ offered is superior to the one offered by Abel, even though his was by faith
      b) Heb. 10:11-14

II. WHY WE SHOULD HEED THE VOICE FROM THE NEW MOUNTAIN
   A. Those at Mount Sinai did not escape
      1. "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks" - Heb. 12:25
      2. From the lesser to the greater - Heb. 2:1-4, 10:26-31; Luke 12:48
   B. The one who speaks will shake heaven and earth - Heb. 12:26-27
      1. When God spoke at Mount Sinai, the earth trembled - Ex. 19:18
      2. The day is coming when both heaven and earth will be removed
         a. 2Peter 3:10-12
   C. We are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken - Heb. 12:28
      1. We are now in the kingdom - Col. 1:13
      2. In another sense, we have yet to enter the kingdom - 2Peter 1:10-11
      3. It began on the day of Pentecost after Jesus ascended to sit at God's right hand - Acts 2:30-47
      4. It will be completed when Jesus returns to deliver the kingdom to God
         a. 1Cor. 15:23-26
      5. It will stand forever - Dan. 2:44
   D. The One who speaks is a consuming fire - Heb. 12:29; Matt. 10:28

Conclusion:
   A. God has spoken through His Son - Heb. 1:1-3
   B. Will you heed His call to come to the New Mountain?