

## Daily Bible Readings

**Our Read-Ahead for: 25 September 2022**

### ***Faith Inspires Gratitude***

**Monday:** Listening to the Voice of Warning (**Ezekiel 33:1–9**)

**Tuesday:** Listening to the Spirit (**Revelation 3:1–13**)

**Wednesday:** Anticipating a Better Covenant (**Hebrews 8:1–7**)

**Thursday:** Giving Thanks for the Faithful (**2 Thessalonians 1:1–7**)

**Friday:** Loving with God’s Kind of Love (**Matthew 5:43–48**)

**Saturday:** Pursuing Peace and Holiness (**Hebrews 12:12–17**)

**Sunday:** Offering Acceptable Worship (**Hebrews 12:18–29**)

25 September 2022

## Faith Inspires Gratitude<sup>1</sup>

Printed Text; **Hebrews 12:18–29**

Bible Background; **Hebrews 12:14–29**

Devotional Reading; 2<sup>nd</sup> **Thessalonians 1:1–7**

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**Keep in Mind:** “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (**Hebrews 12:28 KJV**)

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### *Focal Verses*

#### **Hebrews 12:18–29**

18 For you are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

**19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:**

20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, and if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

**21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)**

22 But you are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

**23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,**

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel.

**25 See that you refuse not him that speaks. For if they escaped not who refused him that spoke on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaks from heaven:**

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<sup>1</sup> Urban Ministries Inc, *Directions* Adult edition, September-November 2022; *Faith Is Endurance*, 25 September 2022

26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

**27 And this word, yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.**

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

**29 For our God is a consuming fire.**

### **Aim for Change**

By the end of the lesson, we will: **KNOW** the meaning of God's forgiveness and promise of eternal life; **EXPLORE** our fears about death and assurances of God's grace; and **REPENT** for sometimes rejecting God's grace.

### **In Focus**

*In today's lesson, we are reminded to trust God and not fear death but live each day with thankfulness as we experience God's grace.*

## **I. The People, Places and Times**

**Mosaic Covenant:** The Pentateuch (first five books of Old Testament) record the conditions and requirements of the Mosaic Covenant, which was given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai for God's people, the Israelites. Moses was the liaison between God and the Israelites. Moses communicated God's requirements for the covenant and pled Israel's case before God. After God revealed His power and rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the Mosaic Covenant was conditional based on Israel fulfilling its part of the covenant.

**New Covenant:** The New Covenant is based on Jesus Christ, the Mediator, who died to redeem the sins of all humanity. Jesus established the New Covenant through His own death and resurrection commissioned His disciples and believers to share the Good News about the kingdom of God. Believers will dwell with God in the heavenly city of God, Mount Zion (Sion).

**Mount Zion:** This is a reference to the heavenly city of God and believers who will dwell with Him. The mountain is available through the blood of Jesus. It is a celebration of the Holy One where angels, believers, and righteous people dwell.

**Background:** Most of the earliest believers in Christ were Jews. When Paul went to Jerusalem, he was told, “Many thousands of Jews are there who believe” (Acts 21:20). The number of Jewish Christians grew, but the church communities. endured physical and social persecution from the Jews and Romans. The writer of Hebrews expressed the superiority of Christianity and urged believers to keep their eyes on Jesus. The early believers may have considered returning to Judaism to hold on to the biblical truths. The writer of Hebrews wanted the believers to hold onto their faith.

As the believers at the newborn church struggled, disciples who had victoriously run the race gazed at the struggling believers. The writer urged them not to be discouraged by struggles which perfects believers. He also urged them to be very careful and guard against defiling themselves and selling their birthrights, which would result in losing the promises of God. We must remember our actions have lasting consequences. Although we repent and seek God’s forgiveness, we cannot eliminate the consequences of sin.

## **II. In Depth**

1. The Two Mountains: Sinai and Zion (The Heavenly City) (**Hebrews 12:18–21**)
2. The Heavenly City (**Zion or Sion**) (**Hebrews 12: 22–23**)
3. The Heavenly City and Jesus, the Mediator (**Hebrews 12: 24**)
4. Criteria for Entering the Heavenly City (**Hebrews 12: 25–26**)
5. Preparing for the Heavenly City (**Hebrews 12: 27–29**)

## **III. Take Aways**

## **IV. Announcements**

## **V. Closing Prayer**