LIFE Bible Study: Hebrews 12:18-29

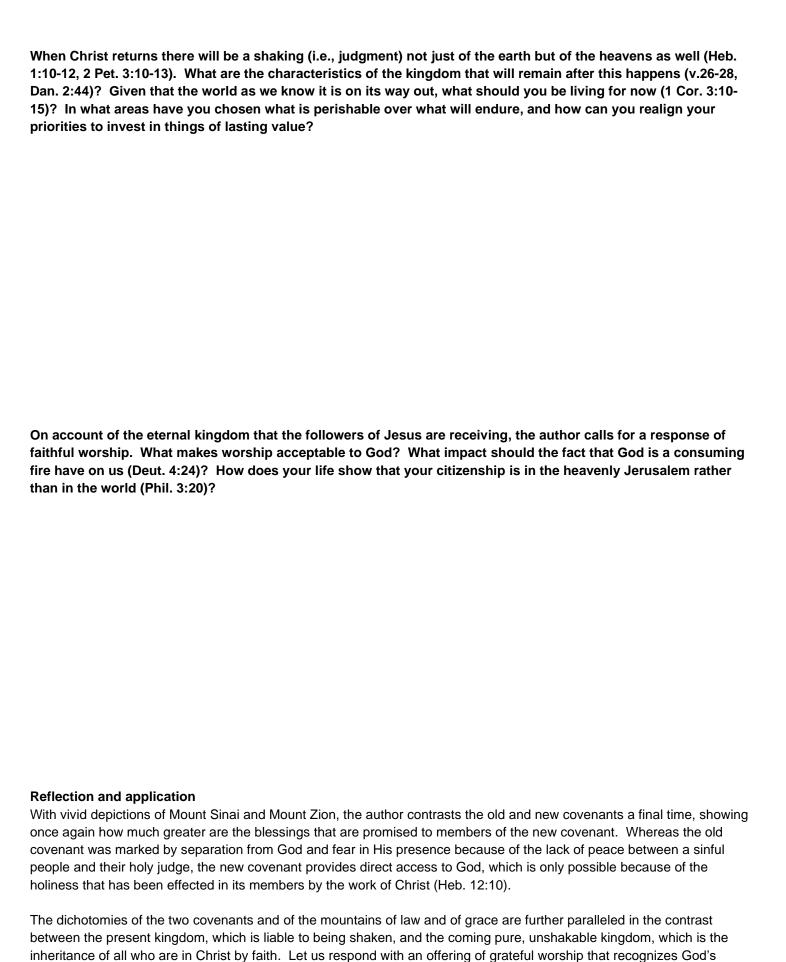
For Discussion: What are some of your long-term goals? How difficult is it to plan and live for a goal that won't be realized for many years? What helps you to focus and stay on track in pursuing those goals, even when you are presented with competing interests?

Read Hebrews 12:18-29

For review: In Hebrews 12:1-17, the author continued to urge his readers to live out their faith with endurance, pointing them to those who, like Jesus, not only withstood great trials for their faith, but deliberately chose them over worldly comfort. To help his readers view their trials correctly, the author used the image of earthly fathers, highlighting both the necessity of discipline and the edification that it can bring about. Hardships and difficulties, rather than being a sign of God's rejection, are a validation of a person's sonship and a sanctifying act of His love. After concluding the section with examples of people who miss out on God's blessings, the author gives a final description of what that blessing is and a last warning to not despise it for worldly things as Esau had done (v.16-17).

In writing about his readers' experience of their faith, the author makes a comparison between two mountains. What are the two mountains that the author references (Ex. 19:10-20)? How is the scene around each mountain described, and what mood do those descriptions evoke?

Based on the descriptions and imagery of each scene and the reactions of those present, what do each of the mountains represent (v.24, Deut. 4:13-14)? What is the significance of being called to Mount Zion rather than to Mount Sinai for a person's relationship with God?



burning holiness and the weight of judgment that we have been spared so that we can, in turn, love Him much for all that

we have been forgiven to make us fit for such a kingdom (Luke 7:47).