

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Hebrews 12:18-29

Sunday, September 23, 2012

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. How does the writer describe the experience of those who came to God in the time of Moses under the old covenant?

When God spoke to them with the loudness or sound of a trumpet, the people were so frightened they did not want God to speak directly to them again. They were terrified of God and what God told them about the holy mountain.

2. How does the writer describe the experience of those who come to God since the coming of Jesus Christ under the new covenant?

Believers in and followers of Jesus Christ should consider themselves as people enrolled in heaven, who are assembled there with Jesus Christ. In heaven, God will have made them perfect; and God, the Judge of all, will judge them to be perfect.

3. What does the writer say that should make believers think of heaven as a happy place?

In heaven, believers will join with innumerable angels in festal garb; which indicates a festival atmosphere where people are happy and rejoicing.

4. How does the writer warn people not to reject Jesus?

He tells people to consider the consequences when people in the Old Testament rejected God. Since Jesus came to forgive people of their sins and make believers fit for heaven (perfect them), people need to consider the consequences of rejecting God's way of forgiving them and preparing them for eternity in heaven.

5. Read Hebrews 12:28 again. How should believers approach God? Why?

We should give thanks to God, and offer to God the kind of worship that is acceptable to God. We should worship God with reverence and awe, because God is giving us a kingdom that cannot be shaken.