



THE

MOUNTAIN



HEBREWS 12:18-21

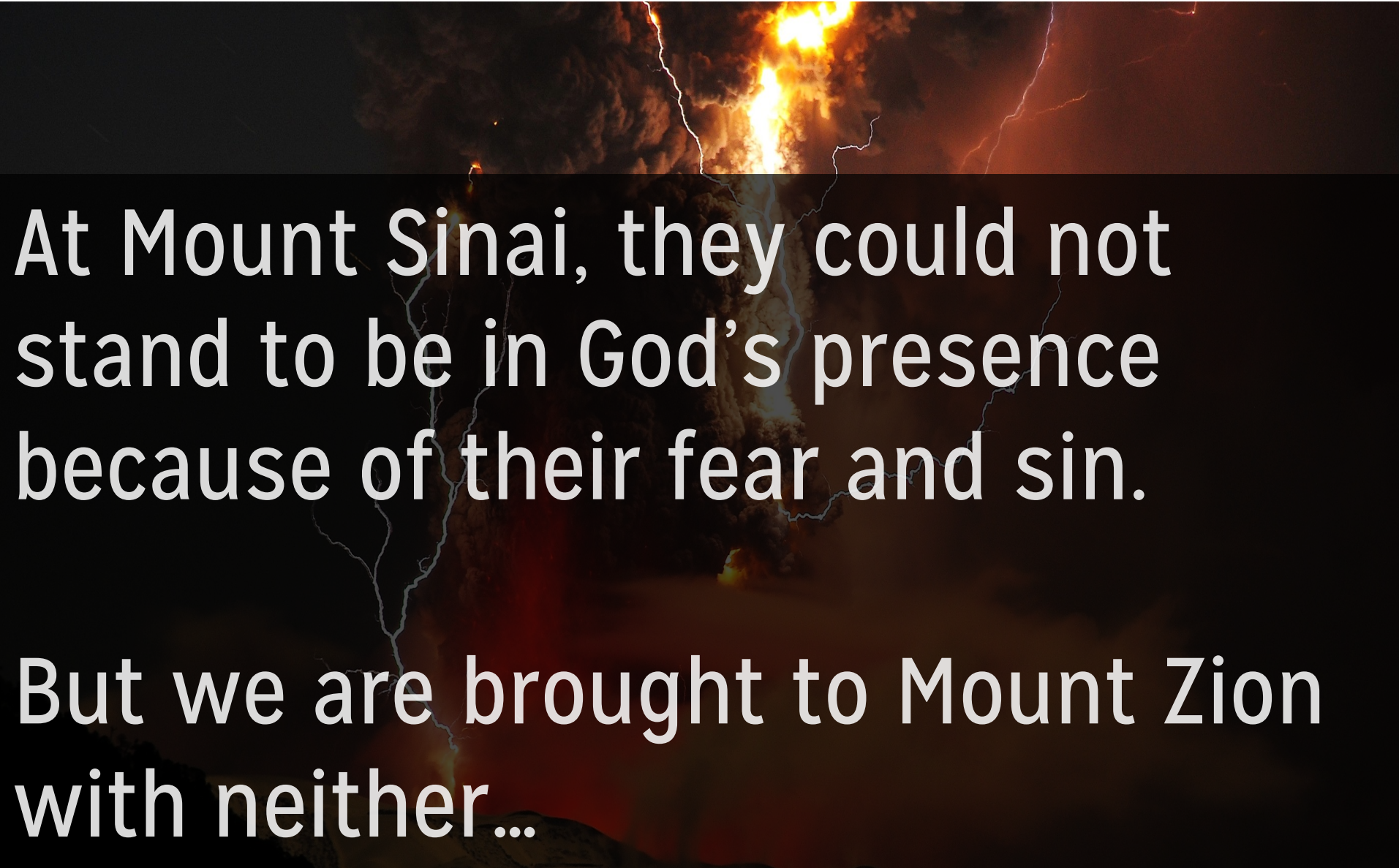
WHY SO TERRIFYING?

- God could have appeared in any shape or fashion He wanted, so why seem so terrifying at Mt. Sinai? Why seem so unapproachable?
- Exodus 20:18-21, Deuteronomy 5:22-27
- God's immense power must be feared. It is a part of His holy character and is as true now as it was at the mountain (Matt. 10:28, 2 Pet. 3:7ff).
- Also see the same link in James 4:5-10. This is not so different from the Israelites at Mt. Sinai!

GOD IN THE WHIRLWIND



- Remember that Job also had to learn to respect the “boundaries” of God. He was confronted by His presence in an unapproachable whirlwind and chided for violating the holiness of God and His prerogatives (Job 38:1-3, 40:6-9).
- We have a natural desire to draw unto God, but we must heed His holiness. This lesson was impressed upon the Israelites at Mt. Sinai in the most tangible, memorable way (Ps. 77:12-20).



At Mount Sinai, they could not stand to be in God's presence because of their fear and sin.

But we are brought to Mount Zion with neither...

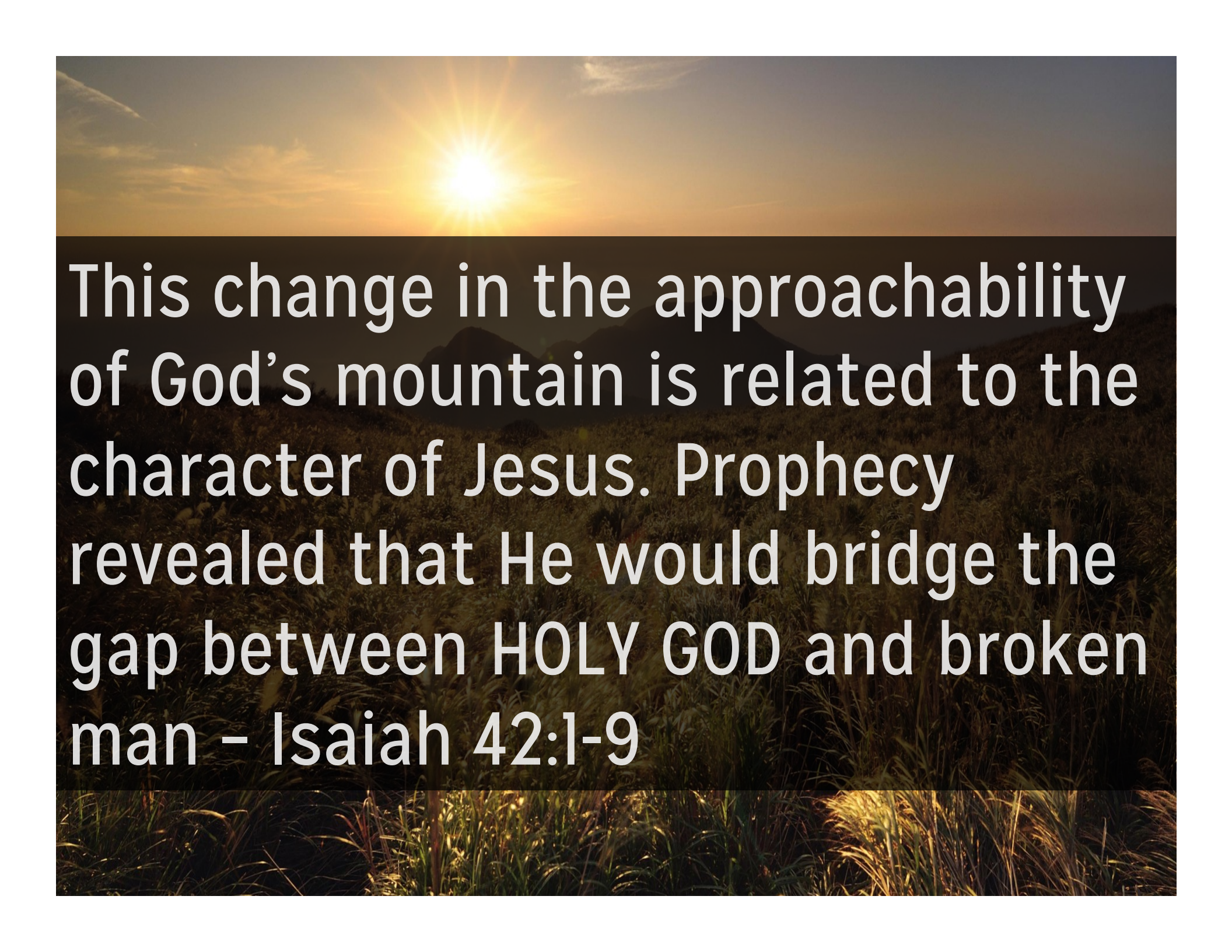




HEBREWS 12:22-24

WHAT MAKES ZION DIFFERENT?

- Perhaps a better question is, “What makes *us* so different?” How can we come to God’s mountain with such boldness? 1 John 2:28 is so different from the Israelites at Mt. Sinail!
- Colossians 1:19-22
- God’s holiness has not changed. His power to destroy in judgment has not changed, either. But our spiritual condition has changed because of access through Christ (Eph. 2:14-18, 3:12, Rom. 8:1ff).

A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over a field of tall grass. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains under a hazy sky. The text is overlaid on a dark semi-transparent band across the middle of the image.

This change in the approachability of God's mountain is related to the character of Jesus. Prophecy revealed that He would bridge the gap between HOLY GOD and broken man - Isaiah 42:1-9

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Hebrews 12:25-29
- The tenderness and approachability of Jesus is not in conflict with the terrifying justice of His Father. His love is our means to salvation, but we cannot tread lightly on such immeasurable grace (Rom. 6:1ff).
- Our response must be gratitude, obedience, and respect. The power of God is real, but the perfect love of the Son casts out all fear (1 John 4:17-19).