

Hebrews

Fifth Warning Passage

Hebrews 12:18-29

The joy of Mt Zion vs the terrors of Mt Sinai

- The terror of Mt Sinai
 - A physical mountain that could be touched but was forbidden by God to be touched.
 - The Lord scorched the mountain in fire
 - The cloud that concealed the Lord made it dark and gloomy on that mountain
 - Perhaps an angelic trumpet (Exodus 19:16,19)

The joy of Mt Zion vs the terrors of Mt Sinai

- The terror of Mt Sinai
 - The people could not "hear" (understand what God was saying) the words God was speaking to Moses and the people and begged to not hear the voice anymore
 - Required stoning of any living thing that touched the mountain – excepting those God called
 - Even Moses was terrified and trembled in the presence and at the sound of God at Mt Sinai

The joy of Mt Zion vs the terrors of Mt Sinai

- BUT...

- You come to Mt Zion...

- The City of the Living God
 - The heavenly Jerusalem
 - The myriads of angels
 - The general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven
 - God – the judge of all
 - The spirits of the righteous made perfect
 - Jesus – the mediator of a new covenant
 - The sprinkled blood which speaks better than the blood of Abel

Mt Zion

- The city of the Living God
 - The dwelling place of the creator of ALL
 - Not a dull, static place but the home of a vital, dynamic, living being who is DOING.
- The Heavenly Jerusalem
 - This new Jerusalem is described in Revelation 21
 - Hebrews 11:10 – The City...
- The myriads of angels
 - So numerous they are called host (Luke 2:13)

Mt Zion

- The general assembly
 - The myriads of angels gathered in celebration of their God
- The church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven
 - Christians! Christians enjoy the rights of first-born sons. Though still living and assembling on earth, they form a select group, their names already enrolled on heaven's citizenship list.

Mt Zion

- God – judge of all
 - God will judge all men – we are ALL dependent on God for mercy and forgiveness which are lost if JESUS IS ABANDONED
- And the spirits of righteous men made perfect
 - Those who went on before Jesus was glorified – they were righteous and made so by their faith.
 - They were dependent on Christ's death for forgiveness and to be made perfect.

Mt Zion

- Jesus the mediator of a new covenant
 - In previous ages, men had the PROMISE of Jesus
 - The Christian HAS the promise FULFILLED
 - The new covenant is BETTER than the Mosaic
- The sprinkled blood
 - Christ's blood inaugurated the new covenant
 - Hearts cleansed by BETTER blood
 - Not blood of vengeance but REDEMPTION

The responsibilities of Christians

- Listen
 - Pay heed to God's call and word
- Remember
 - Israelites paid the price for deafness at Sinai
- Obey
 - Christians must adhere to God's given word
- Gratitude
 - For what we have been given
- Service
 - With reverence and awe
- Fear
 - Our God is a consuming fire

Next week

- Exhortation concerning the performance of Christian duties
- Hebrews 13:1-17