

But You Have Come to Mt. Zion

Hebrews 12:22-24

In these three verses we are told ... “But you have come to Mt. Zion” as opposed to the Old Covenant people of God who came to Mt. Sinai. Mt. Zion is the place of the cross (Jerusalem) and the “city of the living God” – those who have come to faith in Christ. There is a difference between the two mountains. Rather than describe where we have come, we waste our time telling Christians what they have not done. *Catholics feel guilty for what they have done, Baptists feel guilty for what they have not done!* When you come to faith in Jesus, you have come to the right place. There are seven contrasts in this text.

1. You have come to a place of Refuge (v. 22), not a place of rebuke (v. 18).

Mt. Sinai is “a mountain that can be touched” (v. 18), located in the Sinai Desert in Egypt. It was here that the Lord gave Israel the Ten Commandments and rebuked Israel for their lack of obedience. Mt. Zion is the “the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” protected by the grace of God.

2. You have come to a myriad of serving angels (v. 22), not a mighty and blazing fire (v. 18).

The Old Covenant Law was designed to convict people of their lack of service and love for God. The New Covenant focuses on God serving you through “myriads of angels” (v. 18 and v. 22). The word *myriad* represents countless numbers of angels who are watching out for you (Heb. 13:2).

3. You have come to the assembly of the firstborn (v. 23), not to darkness (v. 18).

The firstborn carried a blessing that represented a great inheritance and the tag of family identity. Your faith in Christ gives you the blessings of the firstborn and entrance into the family assembly. Darkness is translated *blackness* in the KJV. Blackness is that time of great loss of relationship. You have left the blackness because you have a family “enrolled in heaven.” You’ll see them again.

4. You have come to the Judge of all (v. 23), not to gloom (v. 18).

Some may respond, “But if I come to the Judge I will only have gloom!” There is no need to because the Judge of all has judged our sins at Calvary. The freest feeling is to know your entire debt is paid.

5. You have come to a soul made perfect (v. 23), not to a tempest or storm (v. 18).

This perfection within you is a work of God’s grace in Jesus Christ. He takes the righteousness of Christ and credits it to your account. The conscience cleansed by the blood of Christ calms any storm raging within. Those who climb Mt. Sinai find that the Law creates a terrible tempest within.

6. You have come to the Mediator of a New Covenant (v. 24), not to the blast of a trumpet (v. 19).

Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant. This new *agreement* makes it possible for a sinner to return and draw from God the source of real life. The trumpet was an instrument of Jewish war.

7. You have come to the sprinkled blood (v. 24), not to the sound of condemning words (v. 19).

When Cain killed Abel, God said, “The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to me” (Gen. 4:10). The voice of blood is a term meaning ‘judgment for wrong.’ When the voice is heard, God speaks. He speaks words of judgment because the blood cries out. Jesus’ blood cries out—“It is finished!”

Application:

- If you spend more time worrying about *doing* than resting in *being*, you’ve missed Zion.
- If you can’t fathom how you receive rewards for which you didn’t work, you’ve missed Zion.
- If you can’t find incredibly good news through Christ and trusting the Spirit, you’ve missed Zion.
- If you are not completely set free by Truth to live in your own skin, then you’ve missed Zion.

The biblical writers would often contrast the blessings of God’s grace to the dangers of the Law.