

I. Introduction and review: Don't get lost!

II. You have not approached God at Mount Sinai. v. 18-21

- A. Mount Sinai was typical. v. 18a Galatians 4:25-26 Exodus 19:10ff**
1. Though there is no explicit reference, Mount Sinai is clearly in view. Dt. 4:11
 2. The issue was not the holiness of Sinai itself, but the presence of God who revealed His majesty and power there before the assembled nation.
 3. Mount Sinai looks ahead to a better mountain (Zion) where there will be a better assembly, a better mediator, and a better way to approach God.
- B. Mount Sinai was touchable in that it was of the present created order and could be experienced with the senses. v. 18**
1. A blazing fire. 12:29 Rev. 8:8 Ex. 19:18
 2. Darkness. Ex. 19:16a Mt. 8:12
 3. Gloom. Ex. 19:16 Deut. 4:11 Jude 1:17
 4. A whirlwind/storm. Ex. 19:16b
 5. The blast of the trumpet. Ex. 19:19 Mt. 24:31 I Co. 15:52 I Th. 4:16 Rev. 1:10 4:1 8:2,6 9:14
 6. The thunderous sound of words. Ex. 19:19
- C. Mount Sinai was terrible: reflecting the holy majesty of God. v. 19b-20**
1. The Israelites were overwhelmed by the divine voice and pleaded with Moses to intercede. v. 19b Ex. 20:18-19
 2. The divine presence was unapproachable: Even a beast who touched Sinai would die. v. 20 Ex. 19:12-13 II Sam. 6:6-7
 3. Even Moses, the Old Covenant mediator, was full of fear and trembling. v. 21 Deut. 9:19 Acts 7:32 Ex. 19:20 3:6 Isa. 6:5
- D. Thank God that you no longer have to approach Him through Sinai.**
1. None of us can approach God or please Him on Sinai's terms.
 2. Sinai shows the need for Zion. 8:7
 3. Why would anyone want to go back to Sinai?

III. You have drawn near to God at Mount Zion. v. 22-24

- A. In what sense have you *come* to Zion?**
1. The *coming* refers to a priestly approach to God in worship. 4:16 10:22
 2. You have not come physically to an earthly place, but by faith and in spirit.
 3. Your coming has a past, a present, and a future. 4:16 10:22 13:14 9:28
- B. The contrast between Sinai and Zion could not be greater. v. 22a**
1. The titles of the heavenly city express its superior character. II Sa. 5:7 I Ki. 19:21 Ps. 2:6 50:2 51:8 110:2 Ps. 132:13-14 Isa. 1:8 46:13 Rev. 14:1 Mt. 21:5 I Pe. 2:6
 2. Where Sinai was earthly and temporal, Zion is heavenly and eternal. 9:11
 3. Under the New Covenant, we no longer travel to a particular earthly place to meet with God. Jo. 4:20-24
 4. This is the city for which the patriarchs longingly waited. 11:10,13-16
 5. We are waiting for the full manifestation of the heavenly Zion. 13:14 Eph. 2:19 Phil. 3:20 Rev. 14:1 21:2-3,23
 6. While Zion was forbidding and terrifying, Zion is inviting and gracious. Isa. 2:2-3

- C. You have joined the holy inhabitants of Zion.**
1. You have joined the myriads of angels (in festal array). 1:4-5,14 2:2 Re. 5:11 19:6 Deut. 33:2 Rev. 5:11
 2. You are a member of the church (assembly) of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven. 1:6 2:12 Luke 10:20 Phil. 4:3 Rev. 3:5 13:8 20:15 21:27 Ga. 3:29 Ro. 8:16 Dt. 4:10 18:16 Ex. 4:22-23 32:32-33 Jer. 31:9
 3. You have come to God the Judge, who vindicates His people. 4:13 10:30ff Gen. 18:25 Ps. 50:6 94:2 9:7-12 Rev. 6:10
 4. You are one with the spirits (souls) of righteous men made perfect. 11:39-40 10:38 Rev. 6:9 14:13 II Co. 5:8 Phil. 1:21,23
 - a. This probably refers to believers whose souls are already in heaven.
 - b. They are perfected, along with us, in Christ. 7:19 11:39-40 10:14
 5. You have come to Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant. 8:6 9:15 7:22 I Tim. 2:5 Gal. 3:20
 6. You have come near to God because of the sprinkled blood. 9:13-14 10:10
- D. How does Jesus blood speak better than that of Abel?**
1. Abel's blood cried out for judgment. 11:4 Gen. 4:10
 2. Jesus' blood pleads for mercy for all who trust in Him. 10:10,14 Col. 1:20
- E. Between Mount Sinai and Mount Zion lies Mount Calvary.**
1. Jesus fulfilled the demands of Sinai so that you might approach Mount Zion.
 2. Through Him we have priestly access to God. 4:16 6:19 7:25 10:19-22

IV. Concluding applications.

- A. The two mountains illustrate the two ways people seek to approach God.**
1. Most people think they can approach God through law (Sinai). Isa. 64:6 Ro. 9:20
 2. Come to God through Christ. Phil. 3:7-9
- B. The mountains illustrate two ways Christians see their relationship with God.**
1. Many Christians today act as if they are living near Sinai. Gal. 3:3 4:21ff
 2. You have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem! 4:16 10:19-22
- C. Our joyful assembly is a foretaste of Zion.**
- D. Are you ready to partake of holy communion? I Cor. 11:28-30**

Discussion questions

1. Why do we think verses 18-21 refer to Mount Sinai?
2. What does Mount Sinai represent?
3. What are the characteristics of Mount Sinai?
4. What is the significance of Mount Zion?
5. How is our coming to Zion past, present, and future?
6. How is Mount Zion different from Sinai?
7. What and whom will we find in Zion?
8. How can this passage be used evangelistically?
9. In what ways do Christians regress to Sinai?
10. How does Jesus' blood speak better than that of Abel?