

12:18-24



HEBREWS

A Tale of Two Mountains

**18 For you have not come to a mountain that
can be touched and to a blazing fire,**

**and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, 19
and to the blast of a trumpet**

**and the sound of words which sound was
such that those who heard begged**

**that no further word be spoken to them. 20
For they could not bear the command,**

“If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned.” 21 And so terrible was the sight,

**that Moses said, “I am full of fear and
trembling.” 22 But you have come to**

**Mount Zion and to the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem,**

**and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general
assembly and church of the firstborn**

**who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the
Judge of all, and to the spirits**

**of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to
Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,**

**and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks
better than the blood of Abel.**

1. We must consider the inadequacy of outward religion to qualify us to encounter God in joy (18–21).

Sinai was a real, physical, and visible mountain that someone could touch (18).

The mountain burned with fire to the very heart of the heavens: darkness, cloud and thick gloom. -Deut 4:11

God's awesome presence put the totality of creation on notice that He alone is God.

I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the Lord was wrathful against you...- Deut 9:19

**Praise God! We have not come
to Mount Sinai (18).**

We needed more than localized access at a physical mountain or in a physical tabernacle.

**There is a different mountain
available in Jesus.**

2. We must recognize we already have joyful access to God's presence (22–24).

The word translated “come to” (22) is a favorite of the author of Hebrews.

**When you come to Jesus, you have come to
the heavenly Mount Zion!**

“The city of God can’t fail, for the living God dwells there, and no one can triumph over Him.”

The hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. – John 4:21

...thousands upon thousands of angels worshiping as they reflect God's glory and tell of Christ's salvation...

**When you turn from sin and trust in Jesus,
you are enrolled in heaven (23).**

Through His Son's sacrifice, God has made the people enrolled in heaven perfect.

You have come to Jesus (24)!

Jesus is the climax of this heavenly list.

Have you come to Mount Zion?