

WHERE HAS GOD BROUGHT US?

Hebrews 12:18-24

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul urges these Christians to run a patient race
- 1) They are to lay aside every weight
 - 2) They are to throw off besetting sin
 - 3) They are to "look away" to Jesus
- B. He further urges them to not despise the corrective training of their spiritual father.
- 1) God, as a father, loves them
 - 2) He will chasten and scourge them
 - 3) No discipline and training brings joy until the fruit of it is borne.
- C. They should not be dejected and angry
- 1) *"Lift up the hands that hang down"*
 - 2) *"Make straight paths for your feet"*
 - 3) *"Follow peace and holiness"*
 - 4) *"Do not become bitter as a profane person would do, for example Esau"*
- D. Paul now presents to them the idea of being in the wilderness and coming to one of two mountains.
- 1) Sinai, the Old Covenant mountain
 - 2) Zion, the New Covenant mountain
 - 3) *Galatians 4:21-31*
- I. As Sons Of God We Have Not Been Brought To Sinai
- Exodus 19:7-25* *Deuteronomy 4:10-13*
- A. *"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest."* vs 18
- 1) *"touched"* = $\psi\eta\lambda\alpha\phi\alpha\omega$ = "to handle", "to touch"
 - 2) *"tempest"* = $\theta\upsilon\epsilon\lambda\lambda\alpha$ = "storm", "hurricane", "cyclone"

3) "You have not come to a touchable mountain, that blazed up with fire, to thick darkness and deep gloom, and to a raging storm."

B. *"And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:"*

- 1) "The blast of a trumpet and a voice speaking"
- 2) "intreated" = παραίτησις = "to beg", "to ask for"
- 3) "That no further message be brought them" BER

C. This mountain was one of fear

- 1) The people feared, because to touch it, whether man or beast, they were to die. vs 20
- 2) Moses was filled with fear vs 21
- 3) If God's messages were so fearsome, so filled with death, even subjecting animals to His decrees, they preferred God to cease speaking.

II. The Mount To Which God Has Brought Us

A. *"But ye are come unto Mount Zion,..."* vs 22

- 1) Zion is one of the hills on which the city of Jerusalem is built. David made it his capital. Here it symbolizes our relationship to God by faith.
- 2) "No, you have been allowed to reach the true Mount Zion"
PHI

B. *"...and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,..."*

- 1) "Even to the city of the living God" WMS
- 2) This is the city, a heavenly Jerusalem, where God lives and to where all the people of faith are coming.

C. *"...and to an innumerable company of angels..."*

- 1) "innumerable" = μυριάς = "myriad", "ten thousands"
- 2) "Here are gathered thousands and thousands of angels" KNOX

D. "...to the general assembly..." vs 23

- 1) *πανηγυρις* = "festive gathering" A great gathering for a festive celebration, often athletic in nature.
- 2) This belongs to the angels and not to the church. Angels are rejoicing in heaven now and will do so in the future.
Luke 15:4-10

E. "...and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven,..."

- 1) "church" = *εκκλησια* = "gathering", "assembly"
- 2) "firstborn" = *πρωτοτοκος* = "those who enjoy firstborn rights as sons", "they are joint heirs"
- 3) "written" = *απογραφω* = "to write off", "enroll"
- 4) "The gathering of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven."

F. "...and to God the Judge of all,..."

- 1) "And to God, the Judge of all men" TENT
- 2) "To a Judge who is God of all" MON

G. "...and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

- 1) "just" = *διακαιος* = "so that no fault or defect to be charged"
- 2) "spirits" = *πνευασι* = "of spirits"
- 3) "perfect" = *τελειωω* = "to bring to the goal"
- 4) "Of upright men now at last enjoying the fulfillment of their hopes." GSPD

H. "And to Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant..." vs 24

- 1) "mediator" = *μεσιτης* = "middle" + "to go", "one who intervenes between two parties"
- 2) "And to Jesus, mediator of a new agreement"

I "...and to the blood of sprinkling,..."

- 1) "And to the sprinkled blood" TENT
- 2) This is the basis of the New Covenant

J. "...that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

- 1) "speaketh" = λαλεω = "to utter words"
- 2) "better" = κρεισσων = "stronger", "more powerful"
- 3) The blood of righteous Abel cried from the ground of sprinkling, the blood of Jesus speaks a more powerful message.

III. The Two Jerusalems Galatians 4:21-31

- A. Hagar is Mount Sinai, in Arabia
- B. Jerusalem, which is above is free

