

*Mt. Zion vs. Mt. Sinai*  
*Hebrews 12:18-24*

*“The city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, is heaven itself. Coming to Christ is coming to heaven. The only way to come to heaven. When we come to Mount Zion, we come by grace to the city Abraham looked for, ‘the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God’ (Heb. 11:10). From the moment of salvation, heaven is our spiritual home—where our heavenly Father and our Savior are. And where the rest of our spiritual family is. That is where our treasure is, our inheritance is, our hope is. Everything we have of any value is there and all that we should want is there.*

*Until the Lord takes us there to be with Himself, however, we cannot enjoy its full citizenship. For now we are ambassadors on earth. As ambassadors we have full citizenship in our home country, but we are away from it for a while and cannot enjoy its full blessings. In the meanwhile we are to be faithful emissaries of our Savior and our heavenly Father, reflecting their nature before a world that does not know them. And Paul encourages us not to lose our perspective of the incomparable value of our heavenly inheritance (Rom. 8:17-18).” MacArthur*

- I. Chapter 12 has been full of one challenge after another. From the challenge to run the race of faith with perseverance, to keeping our eyes on Jesus as we run, to staying in the lane of righteousness as we run, to not letting anything cause us to stumble and lose our focus on Christ be it opposition, being sinned against or our own sin, to coming along side others to help them run well, to understanding that at times the obstacles and hardships we face are what God brings into our lives to mature us, make us more holy (progressive sanctification), and produce in us a harvest of righteousness and peace, to the exhortation to live well by making every effort to live at peace with all men, by making sure we are living the holiness of God, by making sure we stay in God’s grace, by making sure we do not let bitterness exist in our hearts and in the church, by making sure we deal swiftly with anyone who is sexually immoral, and by making sure we do not allow godlessness in the church and in our hearts. It’s an incredible, lifechanging, active, enduring work going on in our lives that excludes no one who knows Jesus.

Heb. 12:1-17

**Luke 12:48** *From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*

- II. Mt. Sinai speaks of being judged by God's law and being condemned by it for not meeting its requirements. It is a place we left behind upon salvation. A place that will never affect us again. A place that is not on any believer's bucket list to go back to. A place that is inhospitable, foreign, foreboding, and deadly to the soul. It is a place where only God's holiness exists. Anyone who is there is unwelcome because of their sin. It is a place of judgment and condemnation due to man's inability to make themselves holy and righteous before Him. It doesn't mean that God is unloving or even uncaring, but it does mean that man's sin must be judged by a righteous God who cannot allow sinful man to come near to Him because of His holiness. All who chose to stay there will unfortunately be judged by the law, which will condemn them.

Heb. 12:18-21

Ex. 19:10-25

1 Peter 1:15-16

Ex. 20:1-17

**John 3:17** *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*

**1 Timothy 2:3-4** *3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

**Ezek. 18:32** *For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!*

- III. Mt. Zion speaks of God's grace. It is a place where redeemed, justified, sanctified believers have been led to upon salvation. They are the only ones who are welcome there. It's our heavenly home where God lives with all His holy angels. Our names were written there before the foundation of the world to show that we are His adopted children (Rom. 8:23) who have been given full inheritance rights (1 Pe. 1:3-4) to His kingdom. The only ones who will ever dwell there are those who have been made perfect and righteous through the blood of Jesus. It is a place where we will be free from condemnation and shame because of sin, a place where God's love will cause us great joy and thanksgiving.

Heb. 12:22-24

Ps. 132:13-14

Lk. 10:20

2 Cor. 5:10

Rom. 8:1

Rev. 21:1-5

**Rev. 21:27** *But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*