

1. So the writer presses home his point once again - do not settle for something less - you will surely live to regret it.
2. The writer comes now to his final contrast-picture: Mount Sinai and Mount Zion, the awesome proclamation of the law and the joyful proclamation of the gospel. Old and new covenants are here presented in majestic contrast.
(Read verses 18-24)
3. The whole lesson in verses 18-21 speaks to the unapproachable holiness of God and the defilement of sin of every man and beast.
4. Even Moses who had met God at the burning bush and experienced God's grace many times ascended Mt. Sinai with trembling.
5. The writer of Hebrews contrasts Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Law with the heavenly Mt. Zion and the blessings of grace in the church.
6. He describes the power and even the terror that were involved in the giving of the Law.
7. The people were afraid to hear God's voice, and even Moses feared and trembled! God set boundaries around the mount, and even if an animal trespassed, it was struck dead.
8. Mt. Sinai represents the Old Covenant of Law, and Mt. Zion represents the New Covenant of grace in Jesus Christ. (Galatians 4:19-31)
9. The heavenly city is God's Mt. Zion. This is the city that the patriarchs were looking for by faith. (Hebrews. 11:10, 14-17)
10. The earthly Jerusalem was about to be destroyed by the Romans, but the heavenly Jerusalem would endure forever.
11. He described the "citizens" that make up the population of this city. Innumerable angels are there. The church is there - believers have their citizenship in heaven. (Philippians 3:20)
12. "Firstborn" is a title of dignity and special privilege. Esau was actually Isaac's firstborn, but he rejected his privileges and lost his blessing and birthright.
13. God is there, of course, and also the Old Testament saints ("spirits of just men made perfect").
14. Jesus Christ the Mediator is there, the One who shed His blood for us. Christ's blood speaks "better things than that of Abel."
15. They come also to the blood of sprinkling, Jesus' blood, which speaks better things than the blood of the sacrificial animal which Abel offered.

16. It is not Abel's own blood which is compared here with Jesus' blood. The historical background (Genesis 4) and the theme of this letter shows that the purpose of the writer is to prove that Jesus' blood of the New Testament is better than and takes the place of the animal blood shed under the First Testament.
17. Were it not for the blood of the New Covenant, we could not enter this heavenly city!
18. We need to pay close attention to verses 25-29. The reason - all of this confronts the privileged believer not only with deeper certainty, but also with greater responsibility.
19. But in the mind of the writer it has a further purpose; it is intended to inspire an immediate and active response.
20. For all the believers - earthly troubles, as well as celestial joys, were on the immediate horizon.
21. Where everything around them was being shaken, these believers were not to be afraid, but to rejoice in the secure, immovable kingdom to which they most certainly belonged.
22. The same applies to us today.
23. After giving the contrasts between Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion the writer says, "Here is what you must do. Do not ignore Him who is speaking."
24. If men were held accountable for heeding God when He warned them on earth - how much more will they be held accountable now that He warns from heaven - Mt. Zion.
25. God shook the earth at Mt. Sinai - He will one day shake the very heavens and universe.
26. In verse 27 the writer quotes what God prophesied through Haggai. (Haggai 2:6; Isaiah 13:13)
27. Everything physical will be destroyed. Only the eternal things will remain.
28. This is the kingdom we as believers receive - eternal, unchangeable, and immovable.
29. The right response is given to us in verse 28.
30. The closing verse is probably the severest warning in this letter.
31. Only judgment is found at Mt. Sinai - reconciliation, peace, and eternal life is found at Mt. Zion.
32. If you have truly experienced and received the blessings from Mt Zion - how could you possibly want to hold on to Mt. Sinai in any way?