



**TITLE:**

Ye are Come unto Mt. Sion

**TEXT:**

*Hebrews 12:18-24*

**INTRODUCTION**

- Main section of the entire Epistle. It is not Heb. 11. Heb. 11 is a parenthesis. Chapter 12 is a continuation of chapter 10.
- Paul shows the contrast of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. This is one of the themes of His Epistle. See Heb. 8:7-13.
- The Law of Moses, the glory of the Jews, can't bring salvation.
- Paul re-states the difference between the two covenants in Heb. 12:18-24.

**FOR YE ARE NOT COME UNTO MT. SINAI**

- The conjunction word "For" indicates a connection between the argument and the previous warning about apostatizing.
  - Paul illustrates apostasy as an outcome of being a profane person like Esau who easily gave up his birthright and the accompanied blessing in exchange for one morsel of meat. He sought the blessing carefully with tears but he was rejected.
  - If a person goes back into work salvation (context: Law of Moses) and renounces that the atoning sacrifice and the blood of Jesus Christ is the only way to one's salvation, they can't be saved. See Heb. 6:4-6 and Heb. 10:26, 29.
- To strengthen Paul's exhortation to the Jewish believers, he tells them that they are not under the Old Covenant but of the New - "ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched (Mt. Sinai) ... but ye are come unto mount Sion."
- Mt. Sinai.
  - It is a real literal mountain. This might be touched.
  - It displays terrible, fearful, and terror scenes: burned with fire, blackness and darkness, tempest or storm (lightning and thunder), the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words - spoken by God. It was so fearful that the people earnestly prayed that the word might not be so spoken to them anymore.
  - Moses said, "I exceedingly fear and quake." The Jews exalted him as the father of all the prophets (John 9:28).
  - Reference: Exo. 19:10-19, 20:18-21, Deu. 9:19.
- The Old Covenant was so fearful because it requires perfect obedience and there is a punishment and judgment that is accompanied by it.
- The Law showed a sinful man who is separated from the holy God. The Law was given to show that we are sinners.
  - In most soul-winning programs today, the Law is not presented anymore. They have techniques to manipulate the person to say YES when they are asked: "Do you acknowledge that you are a sinner?". But in reality, the person doesn't have any clue what it means.
  - How did Jesus give witness to the Samaritan woman? He showed that she was violating the 7th commandment.
  - How did Jesus give witness to the young rich ruler? He showed that he was violating the 10th commandment.
  - Without a clear presentation of the Law, the sinner doesn't acknowledge his lost condition before the Holy and Just God. The sinner doesn't repent. The sinner doesn't look for a Savior.
- Paul is saying that the believers are not come unto Mt. Sinai - signifying they are not under the Old Covenant.
- Are you going to go back to some work religion like these Jews?

## **BUT YE ARE COME UNTO MT. SION**

- Paul is saying that the believers are not under the Old Covenant but the New Covenant.
- The word “ye are come” (προσεληλύθατε - proselēlythate) is a Second Perfect Active verb. It describes an action that is viewed as having been completed in the past, once and for all. When a person repents and believes, he is come to Mt. Sion. He became a citizen of heaven.
- Mt. Sion signifies heaven. The New Covenant makes a believer a citizen of heaven while he is still on earth. See Eph. 2:6, Phi. 3:20 - conversation means citizenship.
- Mt Sion:
  - To Mt. Sion. Unlike Mt. Sinai (which can be touched - physical, literal, material), Mt. Sion is above the reach of our external senses - heavenly.
  - To the city of the living God. The city where the living God dwells. See John 14:1-4.
  - To the heavenly Jerusalem. See Rev. 21:1-3. It is composed of everyone who is redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.
  - To an innumerable company of angels reside.
  - To the general assembly and church of the firstborn. The believers are the firstborn of the new creation. See Rom. 8:23. God is going to restore His creation. And the New Testament believers are the firstborn. Then Israel will be redeemed. Then the creation will be restored.
    - Names are written in heaven. It is our heavenly passport. Visa.
  - To God the Judge of all. Men are accountable to Him. Believers can now come directly to Him.
  - To the spirits of the just men made perfect. They are the believers who are now in heaven. They are justified and made perfect.
  - To Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant.
  - To the blood sprinkling.
    - The blood which Jesus shed for us, and which is sprinkled upon us to confirm the New Covenant.
    - It speaks better things than the blood of Abel which spoke of vengeance (Ge. 4:10) or blood that he offered.
  - Mt. Sinai displays terrible, fearful, and terror scenes but Mt. Sion displays glorious, delightful, and gracious scenes.
- Context:
  - This is described as better and enduring substance, recompense of reward, and promise (Heb. 10:34-37).
  - This is the country that Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob were looking for (Heb. 11:10, 13-16).
  - This is the promise that the Old Testament saints didn't receive in their time. They were waiting for the coming of Messiah. They are waiting on God to fulfill His will in the church. Only then will Christ come, the resurrection happens and Christ's kingdom is established (Heb. 11:39-40).
  - This is the city that we seek to come (Heb. 13:14).
- These are the things that people miss when they ignore the gospel tract when they ignore the invitation of repentance when they ignore the gospel. Rejecting the gift of salvation through the gospel is not a small thing.
- Believers today are citizens and dwellers of heaven. You are come unto Mt. Sion.
  - As dwellers in that city, how do you live and act? Do you have a pilgrim and heavenly mindset? Do you set your affection on things above and not on things on the earth?