

The Grace of God

**TEXT- Hebrews 12:12-29**

Heb 12:12-29 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down

**INTRO – Understanding the good that comes from chastisement.**

**The Power of the Grace of God Heb. 12:14-29**

**Contrast of:**

**Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion**

**The Old and New Covenant**

**Moses and Christ**

The Old Covenant.	The New Covenant.
Sinai, a palpable earthly mountain, surrounded by gloom and storm.	Zion, radiant with light and crowned with the city of God.
The angels through whom the Law was given (of. <a href="#">Heb 2:2</a> ; <a href="#">Gal 3:19</a> ; <a href="#">Act 7:53</a> ; <a href="#">Deu 23:1-25</a> . 2), unseen by men, but operating in the winds and in the fire (cf. <a href="#">Heb 1:7</a> ).	Festal choirs of assembled angels.
Israel congregated under the mountain, afraid, and forbidden to touch it.	The accepted Church of the Firstborn, with free approach to the holiest of all.
The <b>LORD</b> , unapproachable, shrouded in darkness or revealed in fire.	The Judge of all, without his terrors, accessible, and awarding rest to the perfected.
Moses, himself afraid, and winning through his mediation no access for the people.	The Divine availing Mediator.
The blood sprinkled on the people to ratify the old covenant, but which could not cleanse the conscience.	The ever-cleansing blood of complete atonement.
The sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, inspiring fear.	The voice of that cleansing blood, speaking of peace and pardon.

This is the fifth of the exhortations in Hebrews, and the key thought is grace (see vv. 15, 28). The contrast is made between Moses and Christ, Sinai and Mt. Zion, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

When **the Law was given at Sinai**, fear and terror ruled, and The mountain was covered with smoke and fire.

When God spoke, the people trembled.

**But today, we have a spiritual experience greater than that of Israel’s at Sinai, for we have a heavenly priest, a heavenly home, a heavenly fellowship, and a voice speaking from on high that gives a message of grace and love.**

**The New Covenant blessings Heb. 12:22-24 in Christ.**

**Mt. Zion is the heavenly city Mat 13:14; Gal 4:26, in contrast to earthly Jerusalem, which was about to be destroyed.**

**There are three groups of people in the heavenly city:**

- 1) The host of angels, who minister to the saints;**
- 2) The church of the firstborn and**
- 3) The OT saints.**

**“Made perfect” (v. 23)** does not mean that believers in glory are now in their perfect resurrection bodies. It refers, rather, to the OT saints who have now a perfect standing before God because of the death and resurrection of Christ **Heb 10:14** *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

Anyone who believes God’s Word (as did the OT saints) goes to heaven; but the perfection of God’s work did not come until Christ’s death on the cross.

**At the top of this list is Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant.**

How could these people go back to an earthly city (about to be destroyed?)

An earthly temple (which would also be destroyed),

Earthly priests and earthly sacrifices?

Abel’s blood cried out from the **earth for vengeance**

Christ’s blood speaks from heaven for **salvation and forgiveness.**

**This is grace! The New Covenant is a covenant of grace.**

**God’s grace does not fail, though we may fail of His grace ([Heb 12:15](#))**

**Esau is the illustration of one who despised spiritual things and lost the blessing. (“Profane” means “outside the temple” or “worldly, common.”) Esau failed of the grace of God because he would not repent**

But God was shaking already the Jewish economy and was about to destroy the temple in Jerusalem. The material things would have to go so that the spiritual realities might take their place.

God was building a new temple, His church; and the old temple would have to be removed.

“Wherefore” “Let us have grace.” How do we receive grace?

At the throne of grace, where our eternal High Priest intercedes for us.  
We must serve God, not old laws and customs.

We are part of a kingdom that will never be shaken or removed.

We are building our lives on the eternal, unchanging spiritual realities  
that we have in Christ.

Therefore, let us serve God with reverence.

**CONCL-** Let us heed His Word and not refuse to listen, for in His Word  
is the grace and life that we need.