

Hebrews 12: Encouragement to Run the Race of the Christian Life with Patience (Part 4)

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 21:9-27

REVIEW

Last week we began looking at a section of Hebrews 12 that revealed an encouraging contrast between life under Law, or life by God's grace (vss 18-24).

Mt Sinai represented the strict legal demands of the Mosaic Law - demands which were righteous and good, but demands which provided no enablement to fulfil those demands (cf Rom 7:12, 18, 8:3a)

REVIEW

- ◇ **Mt Sion (the heavenly Jerusalem) represents the glorious conclusion of our salvation by grace alone (cf Rom 5:20-12, Eph 2:8):**
 - ◇ **Grace for initial salvation**
 - ◇ **Grace for present-tense salvation**
 - ◇ **Grace for future-tense salvation**

INTRODUCTION

Now we continue to examine this encouraging conclusion to our salvation – the heavenly Jerusalem. This city:

- Prophesied in the OT - Ps 48:1-2
- Presently being constructed in the third heaven, with Jesus Christ as its architect - Jn 14:1-3
- Its descent from the third heaven, after the 7-year period of the Great Tribulation - Rev 3:12; 21:2, 10

Detailed Description of Our New Home

- ◆ The glorious light from and in this city, its gates, and foundations – Rev 21:12-14, 22:5; cf Acts 26:13
- ◆ Description of the city walls, gates, and foundations – Rev 21:12-14
- ◆ Size of the city and its' walls – Rev 21:15-17
- ◆ Details of walls, foundations and street – Rev 21:18-21
- ◆ Description of the temple – Rev 21:22
- ◆ Description of the river of the Water of Life, and Tree of Life - Rev 22:1-2, 17

The Occupants of the Heavenly City

Hebrews 12:22-24

◆ Myriads of angels – cf Rev 5:11

◆ Unfallen angels are ministering messengers in the Father's presence – cf Matt 26:53

◆ “...A complete assembly, a called-out group of ‘firstborn ones’ having been enrolled heavens...”

◆ God the Father, judge of all men

◆ Grace believers have already been judged by the Father by seeing them in Christ as co-crucified with Christ in His death on the cross - Rom 6:3; Gal 2:20

The Occupants of the Heavenly City

Hebrews 12:22-24

- ◆ “...the spirits of righteous ‘men’ having been brought to completion...” - Pre-Abrahamic believers
- ◆ Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant
- ◆ The blood of sprinkling - cf Heb 6:19-20
- ◆ Christ’s shed blood and sprinkled upon Himself, the place of propitiation (satisfaction) speaks a better thing – provision of salvation for all mankind – compared to the shed blood of righteousness - ex Abel, Gen 4

CONCLUSION

We will be encouraged to run the race of our daily Christian life with PATIENCE, while we look ahead at the finish line, where awaits the heavenly Jerusalem, which is our final glorious home!