

Prayer - Ears to hear the call. ^{come to me - weak brokenhearted}
^{poor & needy}
Hymns - 355 'Come, ye sinners, poor & needy' 346
S. Item -
Reading - Heb 12:14-29.

~~Sinai~~
Sinai or Sion?

- So today we will draw our lesson from the great contrast we find in these verses.
 - Namely between Mt Sinai & Mt Sion
- v. 18-22 read.
- What does this mean?
- First let us look at the two Sinai (also called Horeb - maybe the range)
- This mountain is located in the peninsula east of the Red Sea.
 - One of ~~the~~ large mountains rising from a fairly flat, large ^{desert} plain.
- It was here, we principally remember that the law of God was given - or thundered!
- An awesome scene
lets read the account
Ex 19: ~~v~~ 11-22.
- This is where those great laws of God were delivered to Moses in the form principally of 10 commandments
That Great Moral Law of God and all that flows from them.
- This is what our conscience testifies of - ^{Right} ~~or~~ ^{Wrong}

- It is written on our hearts - though we like to ignore it, cover it or ~~hide~~ rub it out.
- But no man can fully get rid of it or suppress wholly the conscience.
- Therefore we are without excuse for we know what is right but we do not do it.
- This is sin - transgression of, or failure to carry out, the Law of God.
 - And we're all guilty (and if our consciences record these things how much more God)
- So, in a sense we all quake at the foot of Sinai with the people, unable to come close in our sin.
- We delight to quote the words "God is the same yesterday, and today, and forever" As He is,
 - But do we remember that they are true of the holiness of God as much as of His faithfulness & love?
- Men have tried to teach that the God of the OT is a different Being from the God of the NT.
 - But we know that it is not so.
- If, therefore, we would understand His character, we must ~~see~~ study the two, and must remember that the incidents related in the OT scriptures form part of "The oracles of God" because by them God reveals Himself.
- Too often we have forgotten the reverence and godly fear which should characterize every approach into His presence.

- Men can, and do, call to God - as we all must.
- We read in Scripture of those awakened souls crying and begging to be turned from sin.
- But these cries, as it were, are the echoes of God's voice and call which goes before.
- He calls first from Sinai.
 - This is a picture for us. ^{of it} Judgement
 - He shows how men cannot come close to His holiness in an unconverted state.
 - The sound of a trumpet warns us. HE SAYS 'GO' they die.
 - He sends the Law as a schoolmaster to teach them a sad lesson that because of their frequent transgressions they are just upon the brink of eternal misery.
 - His design is that, in this, they shall be awakened and stopped on their destructive way and not flatter themselves with hopes of peace.
- This voice of the Lord by the law is loud and terrible, uttered on purpose to rouse and startle those who are dead asleep.
- When it was delivered, "There was a burning with fire, there was blackness, and darkness, and tempest, the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words, which voice they that heard entreated that the word might not be spoken to them any more and so terrible was the sight that Moses said, / exceedingly fear & quake"
- If Moses feared being the man of God how much more should we!

- And if the manner of the law's delivery was so dreadful, much more dreadful will be the manner of the law's execution upon those by whom it has been violated.

The fire and darkness of Mount Sinai were nothing in comparison to the fire of hell and the blackness & darkness there.

Jesus said of our

Psalm 11:6.

- And truly this lecture of the law is necessary that we may attain to a true knowledge and understanding of our sin.

- So it is only when we have been at the foot of Mt Sinai, as it were, and have heard that sin is the great hindrance of all sorts of blessings

and loads us with curses of all sorts both temporal & spiritual & everlasting

that we can see the foolishness of approaching God that way ^{the people broke the law even while it was being given!}

- Indeed it is not up Mt Sinai that we can reach God, but to Mt Zion!

Zion (what is this Zion?)

- Zion is the great mount ~~at~~ within Jerusalem's walls. The city of God.

It is the ~~ancient~~ ancient 'Salem' the 'city of peace'

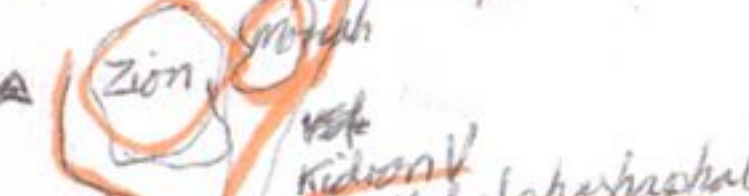
- It is a picture to us of the kingdom of heaven the church of God.

see Isaiah 2:1-3

- Of course I don't point you to the literal city now,

No, it just serves as a picture of the approach. So it is a spiritual/heavenly Jerusalem I speak of.

- Never-the-less the place serves as a visual aid for us.

- So, A bit of topography → 

- God calls to sinners from Mt Zion also, to turn to him from where the old blessings were sounded forth. HE SAYS "COME"

- He not only gives us a sight of His wrath as being at hand while we continue to be workers of iniquity (at Sinai)

- But he also gives us a view of mercy afar off which shall be brought near on condition that ~~we~~ our wickedness is forsaken. (at Zion)

- ~~When~~ If we forsake our sinful ways and thoughts, (that is hate them, turn from them)

then mercy and pardon are promised

Isaiah 55:7. - The Lord will enable us to walk in this new way ^{Sinai's rod leads us to Zion where it turns into a staff.}

- This call of the gospel from Mount Zion is like the still small voice after the strong wind, the fire, and the earthquake.

Read. in Heb 12:25b "... speaketh from heaven"

- We come to Mount Zion, and we see it walled around with a mighty wall barring all who would enter uncleaned from sin.

- Our hearts fall, but then we see Mt Moriah below it

• And we remember it was the place of that temple where sacrifices were offered for sin.

- And we see it pointed to that 'Great Lamb of God' who takes away the sin of the world

- His blood shed to make that great 'Redemption' we learnt about last week. Outside these very walls.

- And we know we may enter if we plead ~~that~~ His merit.

- We shall then enter that spiritual city not made by hands.

- What can a doomed and fleeting/passing world offer in comparison with such a prospect?

- Everything that is lost in Adam shall be recovered in Christ for the heirs of His salvation - eternal life!

- The 'Tree of Life' shall be there. A much better paradise - incorruptable

• And so the far distant ends of scripture come together Rev 21.10 & 22.2

V V Rev 2.7 22.14

• Rejoice in this thought if you know Him today.

If you don't know this:-

- ~~Then~~ We can approach God, but ^{only} in the right way.

• With Godly fear - knowing our sin

• Hearing His call to come, in and ~~come~~ through Christ Jesus.

• Forsaking sin Renouncing the old life in favour of the new.

• Crying out at the gate of the city pleading nothing but Christ's merits.

- And the ~~door~~ will be opened. ^{He promises.}

- But let the warning ring in your ears see the end of our chapter Heb 12.29. 'For our God is a consuming fire'

- So beware, lest your foot slip and you fall into Gehenna. ^{The city refuse the bones of the dead.} That place of eternal burnings. It would be the right place for us without turning to Christ

- ~~and our road~~ and our wide road ends there without Him.

~~to see the end with warning like such a chapter.~~
- Have you found you're not as good as you thought you were? Leave Sinai then and come to Zion for a free Pardon. It's what you need.

Revelation 22:14

¹⁴Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Isaiah 55:7

⁷Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.



Revelation 2:7

⁷He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Psalm 11:6

⁶Upon the wicked he shall
rain snares, fire and
brimstone, and an horrible
tempest: this shall be the
portion of their cup.

