

# CHRISTMAS CONTRASTS

## Hebrews 12:18-24

### I. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE \_\_\_\_\_ COVENANT AND THE \_\_\_\_\_ COVENANT

#### A. The Institution of the Old Covenant 12:18-21

- 1) These verses carry us back to Mt. Sinai to \_\_\_\_\_ what the Israelites saw, heard and felt
- 2) God told Moses to consecrate the mountain: any who touched the mountain God would \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Both the children of Israel and \_\_\_\_\_ were terrified to face God because of the storm and fire
- 4) The Old Covenant emphasizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of God—how unapproachable and set apart He is

#### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Covenant 12:22-24

- 1) “*To Mt. Zion*” is the author’s allusion to the heavenly \_\_\_\_\_ : we possess title to property there
- 2) “*To an innumerable company of angels*”: the author emphasizes that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ to angels  
The author assures Christians they have lost nothing: they already worship w/ \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven
- 3) “*To the church of the firstborn*”: Christ is THE firstborn, but we are \_\_\_\_\_ w/ Him as firstborn  
True members of the church are enrolled in heaven, our names written in the \_\_\_\_\_ Book of Life
- 4) “*To God the Judge of all*”: this is the 4<sup>th</sup> in the list of 7—the center, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the passage
  - a) Jews dreaded coming to God at Mt. Sinai: they could not approach Him w/out blood \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Under the New Covenant we can come \_\_\_\_\_ to God on His throne for help because of Jesus
- 5) “*To the spirits of just men made perfect*”: Heb. 11 is the Hall of Faith filled with \_\_\_\_\_ of the OT
  - a) Hebrew Christians had a community with these OT heroes, pictured in Rev. 4-5 by the 24 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) After death, saints are unembodied \_\_\_\_\_ clothed in Christ’s righteousness, in a perfect state
- 6) “*To Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant*”: Moses trembled to face God but Jesus is His \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Jesus is a superior Mediator to Moses b/c He offered Himself as the once-for-all blood \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Because of Jesus, the Mediator, the New Covenant is new and improved—the \_\_\_\_\_ thing

### II. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST AND THE BLOOD OF \_\_\_\_\_ 12:24

#### A. What Does the Blood of Abel Say? Genesis 4:8-10

- 1) *Abel’s blood cried out for* \_\_\_\_\_ : murder is an attack on the image of God; it demands death
- 2) *Abel’s blood cried out for* \_\_\_\_\_ : Abel was the first martyr of many in the line of the faithful
- 3) *Abel’s blood cried out for* \_\_\_\_\_ : Cain was the 1<sup>st</sup> person God cursed, a fitting punishment

#### B. What Does the Blood of Christ Say?

- 1) *Christ’s blood cries out for* \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) As Christ bled on the cross, He cried out, “Father, \_\_\_\_\_ them for they know not what they do”
  - b) Without the shedding of blood, there is no \_\_\_\_\_ ; Jesus’ blood won eternal salvation
- 2) *Christ’s blood cries out for* \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) By dying as our \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross, Jesus bore God’s punishment on our sin once & for all
  - b) Because of Jesus’ shed blood, God can forgive our sin and yet remain \_\_\_\_\_ and righteous
- 3) *Christ’s blood cries out for* \_\_\_\_\_

If Abel’s blood cries out for judgment under the Old Covenant, Christ’s blood cries out for grace and mercy, which is the basis of the \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant; these promises are linked to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus