

THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM

Part 4 of THE DEATH OF DEATH. Hebrews 12:22-24.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. MAY 1, 2022.

GOD KEEPS US IN FAITH

God works in us to keep us running the race of faith with endurance.

Jude 1:24-25 (ESV) Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

ENDURING FAITH IS ACTIVE FAITH

HEBREWS 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

THE FIFTH PERSPECTIVE: LOOK FORWARD

THE CONDITION FOR HEAVEN

Hebrews 12:22a (ESV) But you have come to ...

THE PEOPLE IN HEAVEN

1. GOD

- The living God - verse 22; God, the judge of all - verse 23

Hebrews 10:19, 22 (ESV) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus ... 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean ...

2. JESUS

- Jesus - verse 24

Revelation 1:12-18 (ESV) Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man ...

3. ANGELS

- Innumerable angels in festal gathering - verse 22

Revelation 5:11-12 (ESV) 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands ...

4. ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

- Assembly of the firstborn - verse 23; the spirits of the righteous made perfect - verse 23

Hebrews 9:15 (ESV) ... receive the promised eternal inheritance ...

Revelation 7:14b-15 (ESV) And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple ...

THE PLACES IN HEAVEN

MOUNT ZION ... THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

- Zion: The fortress and King David's capital city
- Zion: Jerusalem, the place of: temple, presence of God, people of God

Psalms 132:13-14 (ESV) For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: 14 "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it."

- Zion: The cross and new covenant

1 Peter 2:6 (ESV) For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

- Zion: Heaven

Revelation 14:1 (ESV) Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Psalms 2:6-8 (ESV) 6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

Summing Zion up:

THE PROMISES IN HEAVEN

1. THE NEW COVENANT

- Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant - verse 24
- The new covenant was activated by the blood of Jesus on the cross

Matthew 26:27-28 (ESV) And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

- The new covenant promises are named in Hebrews 8

Hebrews 8:10-12 (ESV) 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

2. THE SPRINKLED BLOOD

- The blood of Abel screams for vengeance, see Genesis 4:10
- The blood of Jesus "speaks a better word" of restoration and forgiveness

**LIVE FAITHFUL TO JESUS NOW
BY LOOKING FORWARD TO HEAVEN**