

TITLE AND NUMBER: 251 Joining with the angels 'in joyful assembly'!

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Hebrews 12:22-24, 28-29

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'



LOOKING FURTHER: Mark 12:33, 1 Corinthians 2:9, Hebrews 7:25

What does the Bible passage tell us?

We need to remember that here Paul is writing to Jewish Christians who were facing opposition. He is encouraging them to be joyful in their praises. He is comparing the Holy Mountain of old times to the new Kingdom that we are all heading towards. Paul is reminding them it is no longer a place of fear and trembling nor of separation from God. Instead, it is a place of invitation - a place of welcome and belonging. This wonderful place is open not just to them, but to a host of angels and all who have chosen to follow Jesus Christ over all the years from then until now. And it will be open for us, too!

Is this something we are looking forward to? If we are covered by the blood of Jesus, we have nothing to fear. His blood covers all our sins, all our wrong choices and even all our wrong thoughts. The offering Abel brought in the very first sacrifice was favoured but was not enough. The blood of Christ, the one final sacrifice, was more than enough - so that we can stand spotless before God who is 'the judge of all.' It is our Heavenly Father who invites us to come. There is a warning that He is still Holy and not to be taken lightly. But the invitation is to worship joyfully the God who loves us and makes a place for us in His New Kingdom. Isn't that a wonderful thought to carry us through this week and onwards, in good times and in tough times? The God who is a 'consuming fire,' with power to destroy utterly, is also the lover of our souls with a great passion to save us to the uttermost.

Reflection

- This may be God's plan for all of us, but we still have our own free will and need to choose to follow Him. He makes provision, then He waits for us to respond. Give thanks that God has been patient with us.
- God knows how we feel about Him, but He still wants us to tell Him. If we never told the people who matter to us that we love them, that would be very sad. It is the same with God - He loves to hear our voices. So let's be sure to pour out our praises and adoration to Him this week.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for?
It's okay to talk to God about this.

