

mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty

CHICAGOTABERNACLE

COURAGEOUS COMMUNION

If we're not approaching God, you're not communing with God.

So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. The people all responded together, "We will do everything the Lord has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord. The Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you." Then Moses told the Lord what the people had said. And the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

Exodus 19:7-11

Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain." After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. Then he said to the people, "Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations."

Exodus 19:12-15

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

Exodus 19:16-19

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear." 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.

Hebrews 12:18-24

There are two ways of approaching God and God gives us two symbols to see this:

Mount Sinai-by keeping the law, and is a physical symbol

Mount Zion-by faith in Christ and is a spiritual symbol

Courageous Communion is approaching God at the RIGHT mountain.

We can approach God at the Mountain of the Law or the Mountain of Grace

- 1. The Purpose of the Law
- 2. Approaching God at the Mountain of the Law
- 3. Approaching God at the Mountain of Grace

"For He Himself... has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations." Ephesians 2:14-15

The Law=A Barrier

1. TO PROVIDE A STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

"And this is the basic law of the temple – absolute Holiness!"

Ezekiel 43:12

2. TO EXPOSE AND IDENTIFY SIN

CS LEWIS made a statement: A child trying to draw a wheel as a perfect circle may fail. However, when a perfect circle is seen, the child recognizes what was originally intended.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW 3. TO REVEAL DIVINE HOLINESS

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:13-16

4. TO POINT PEOPLE TO CHRIST

Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:24

APPROACHING GOD AT THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LAW

Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain."

Exodus 19:12-13

APPROACHING GOD AT THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LAW

- 1. Unapproachable
- 2. Untouchable
- 3. Unbearable

APPROACHING GOD AT THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LAW

"Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ." Galatians 2:16

The law was a contract that demanded perfect compliance. The breaking of the contract resulted in death.

"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem."
Hebrews 12:22

 City of the Heavenly Jerusalem - Access to the Heavenly City and the Presence of God

"...You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly..."
Hebrews 12:22

2. Innumerable Hosts of Angels - Access to Heavenly Assistance

"to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven."

Hebrews 12:23

3. Church of the First Born - Access to the Body of Christ

"You have come to God, the Judge of all" Hebrews 12:23

4. Judge of all men - Access to the Justice of God

"...to the spirits of the righteous made perfect..." Hebrews 12:23

5. Spirits of Righteous Men Made Perfect - Access to the Shoulders of Giants

"...to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant..." Hebrews 12:24

6. Jesus the Mediator of a New Covenant - Access to the Perfect Promises

"...and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." Hebrews 12:24

7. To the Blood that is Better than Abel - Access to the Perfecting Blood of Christ